

Medication Rounding

Cherry County Hospital, Critical Access Hospital, Valentine, NE



Background

- 23 bed, Critical Access Hospital in North-Central Nebraska
- Serves a diverse rural population with limited access to healthcare resources.
- Medication safety and compliance was identified as priority areas for improvement
- To address any areas in need of improvements the medication rounding program was launched in collaboration with the pharmacy and quality teams.
- Proactive, pharmacy and safety led initiative aims to prevent errors, improve staff education, and reinforce a culture of patient safety and accountability.

Aims

- Improve medication safety and prevent errors
- Strengthen pharmacist-nurse collaboration
- Ensure compliance with DEA and regulatory standards
- Reduce medication waste and optimize storage
- Provide real-time education to nursing staff

Plan

A Plan-Do-Study-Act framework guided implementation:

- Plan: Define weekly rounding tasks
- Do: Launch Friday rounding by pharmacists/quality officer across all clinical areas
- Study: Collect 4 weeks of baseline data starting July 7th, 2025 then track at least 8 or more weeks of implementation data
- Act: Adjust rounding tools, educate staff, revise policies, and track outcomes

Medication Rounding Sheet

Date:	Location:
Individuals Attending:	
Any unsecured CARTS found?	
☐ Yes ☐ Crash Cart – ED ☐ Anesthesia Cart - ED ☐ Newborn Crash Cart – L&D1 ☐ Epidural Cart – Med Room ☐ Crash Cart – OR ☐ Block Cart – OR ☐ MH Cart – OR ☐ Newborn Crash Cart – OR	☐ No ☐ Crash Cart – ED ☐ Anesthesia Cart - ED ☐ Newborn Crash Cart – L&D1 ☐ Epidural Cart – Med Room ☐ Crash Cart – OR ☐ Block Cart – OR ☐ MH Cart – OR ☐ Newborn Crash Cart – OR
Follow up:	
Any unsecured BOXES found?	
☐ Yes ☐ Ambulance Box 1 ☐ Ambulance Box 2 ☐ Ambulance Box 3 ☐ Ambulance Box 4 ☐ PPH Kit (L&D 301) ☐ PPH Kit (L&D 302) ☐ Specialty Clinic	☐ No ☐ Ambulance Box 1 ☐ Ambulance Box 2 ☐ Ambulance Box 3 ☐ Ambulance Box 4 ☐ PPH Kit (L&D 301) ☐ PPH Kit (L&D 302) ☐ Specialty Clinic
Follow up:	

Measure

- Process Measures:
- Medication Rounding Occurrences over a set time period
 - Percentage of five rights reviewed during medication administration
- Outcome Measures:
- Number of unsecured or improperly secured or ‘tagged’ carts
 - Reduction in medication errors and variances
 - Increased nurse confidence and knowledge

Results

Data collection is ongoing (baseline + 8-week tracking)

Early outcomes & benefits:

- Fewer expired medications and unsecured drugs identified in following weeks
- Enhanced interdepartmental collaboration
- Added Controlled substance waste receptacle
- New storage process for ED anesthesia medications developed

Next Steps

- Develop educational quick-reference tools for nurses
- Share results quality meetings and with leadership
- Promote replication in other rural hospitals through toolkits and site mentorship

Team

- Michelle Connot, RP
- Mardell Egelhoff, RN, BSN
- Katelyn Randall, PharmD Candidate

A	B	C	D	E
Medication Rounding Tracker - Unsecured or Improperly Secured Carts				
Date:	Cart A	Cart B	Cart C	Cart D
7/7/2025	N	N	Y	N
7/11/2025	n/a	Y	N	N
7/25/2025	N	N	N	N