An intrathecal pump is a surgically implanted device that delivers medication directly to the fluid surrounding the spinal cord.

Absence of pain medication records on patients’ home medication lists (outpatient and inpatient).

Missing pain pump medication records can lead to communication gaps between providers.

Difficulty locating IT pump information.

Pain pump medications are not being reconciled upon patient admission.

Lack of records for patients receiving their pain pump medications during admission.

Risk: Potential for opioid overuse.

Concern: Patient safety.

Background

An intrathecal pump is a surgically implanted device that delivers medication directly to the fluid surrounding the spinal cord.

Objective: Ensure all IT Pump medications and doses are included in the MAR (Medication Administration Record) for every patient.

Strategy: On admission, pharmacists will reconcile IT medications to make them visible in the MAR.

Improvement Goal: Include all IT Pump medication information in both inpatient and outpatient medication profiles for all chronic pain patients.

Target Population: Patients in the MDA pain clinic with an IT Pump.

Deadline: July 2023.

Issue: The medication order for the intrathecal pump is preset to “Continuous” and cannot be altered.

Solution: The order to add the medication to the patient’s history has been included in the smart set, with highlighted instructions for the provider.

Note: This added order is also preset to “Continuous” and cannot be modified.

Steps to Address IT Pump Medication Profile Issue

Step 1: Informed medical & QI directors, Dr. Huh and Dr. Roldan, about the issue.

Step 2: Collaborated with the EPIC team to create the IT pump medication profile.

Step 3: Sought input from the Pharmacy team regarding the issue.

Step 4: Participated in a Zoom meeting with the Pharmacy and EPIC teams to discuss the issue.

Step 5: EPIC team developed the IT pump profiling module.

Step 6: Each patient’s profile was updated with the pump medication in the outpatient MAR.

Step 7: Communicated through email with the internal medicine team, admitting team pharmacist, and emergency center group about the IT pump medication reconciliation.

Outcome

We achieved 100% compliance with IT pump medication reconciliation!!!