



Improving resident care by making meds easier

Tips from Monthly Webinars

Improve EMAR Skills

Healthcare reporting has advanced dramatically since the advent of computer technology. Gone is the tedium of graphing temps, recording vitals manually into residents' charts, and dealing with the paper scripts/phone calls to acquire medications.

Today, resident data is entered directly into an EHR system, which communicates with a pharmacy interface to order, renew, or cancel medications. When issues arise, they can be resolved electronically. The key is to know how to "talk" to one another.

TIP 1

Develop good habits. When receiving a pharmacy-pushed order make sure that it is verified and matches the resident's record.

- Read the order in its entirety and verify that it matches the original order.
- Review it for accuracy and correct errors, if any.
- Be sure to add any information that did not pass through the interface.

TIP 2

Reconcile an order. Before rejecting an order, take these steps:

- Determine if information is missing or if it is incorrect and needs to be added by nursing.
- Notify your pharmacy with what it needs to do to fix the order. Be specific.
- In general, only reject an order if the resident, medication, or instructions are wrong.

Tip 3

Pharmacy delivery to the facility.

- Once medications are received and signed for, it is advisable to scan or link them to your EHR system in a timely manner.
- Before each med pass, review all pending orders. The order will not pop up unless it is approved.
- At the end of shift, review pending orders and document all missed meds.

Specific training and conscientious data entry can help reduce transmission errors. If problems arise, your pharmacy vendor is a go-to resource to resolve interface issues.

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For more information on how to optimize your EMAR and med pass process, contact Forum Extended Care Services at (800) 447-7108 or info@forumpharmacy.com.

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