

Einstein Medical Center Montgomery

Using Human Factors to Ensure Proper Storage and Administration for Light Sensitive Medications

Background

- A program was initiated to review formulary medications requiring light protection during storage, after compounding, or during administration.
- 83 medications were investigated, and five were further identified as not meeting recommendations for light protection during storage, compounding or administration. These medications were: metronidazole injection, micafungin injection, nicardipine infusion, epinephrine infusion, and norepinephrine infusion.

Goals

- Ensure light protection for light sensitive medication and reduce lookalike risks.



Approach

- Proper storage location and bins which prevent light exposure were identified and purchased for each medication. Changes to storage within the inpatient pharmacy were mirrored on inpatient floors for consistency.
- Different color bins and overwrap bags were utilized to alert employees of difference between stocked medications to prevent restocking and dispensing confusion.

Results & Takeaways

- At the completion of the project, all five medications had a process to ensure light protection within the pharmacy, on patient care floors, and bedside during administration.
- Successfully replicating this initiative requires background knowledge on human factors engineering and investment from senior leadership.