



# SAFE PRESCRIBING & ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES IN SCOTTISH HOSPITALS

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RCPE Symposium

**Royal College of  
Physicians of Edinburgh**

Representing physicians, maintaining standards.



tweeting? [#rcpeSafeMeds13](#)

# Hospital Medication Errors: The nurse's perspective

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## AIM for the next 10 minutes

- Commonly seen errors
- Improvements



- Worked with 10 teams to determine what goes wrong, why and what to do next
- Issues grouped into themes

# THEMES

Leadership  
Education  
Daily ward activity  
Interruptions  
Checking medicines  
Omitted medicines  
Infusion pumps  
Patients own drugs  
General issue  
Increasing incident reporting

**Prescribing**  
**Discharge meds**

Underpinned by  
**Communication**

## Impact of PRESCRIBING errors

- Consequences for patients and relatives
- Expected to be the 'gate-keeper'
- Investigation
- Time...

## TIME – on admission /inpatient

- First drug round - inevitable delays
- Info from patient / relatives / carer
- Corrections
- Omitting obvious VTE prophylaxis or symptom control e.g. analgesia
- Can't read it / parts of it
- Communication breakdown

# DISCHARGE



- Error potential
- Nurses check off all medications
- IDL meds are often wrong
- **Time** spent seeking medical staff to correct
- Corrected again after pharmacist input
- ...



# IMPROVEMENTS are more successful when...



- MDT input
- Buy-in and decision-making is evident
- Changes tested on a small scale initially
- Data / audit to track what works
- Reliably implemented
- Communication to the MDT
- Sharing

# Communication and accuracy



## On admission

- Check with patients / relatives
- Print the ECS and write decisions on that
- Senior review of kardex

## Inpatient

- Regular kardex review
- Write decisions to stop/start meds on kardex
- MDT attending Safety Briefings
- Inform nursing staff of all 'once only' meds
- Inform nursing staff of urgency e.g. sepsis

# Communication and accuracy



## Structured Ward Rounds

- Standard format
- Readily pass on information
- Clarify decisions
- Informs the IDL
- Senior reviews
- Every patient is reviewed reliably every time



Thank you