

# A Solution to Decades of Ward Level Medicines (mis)management

## Project Team:

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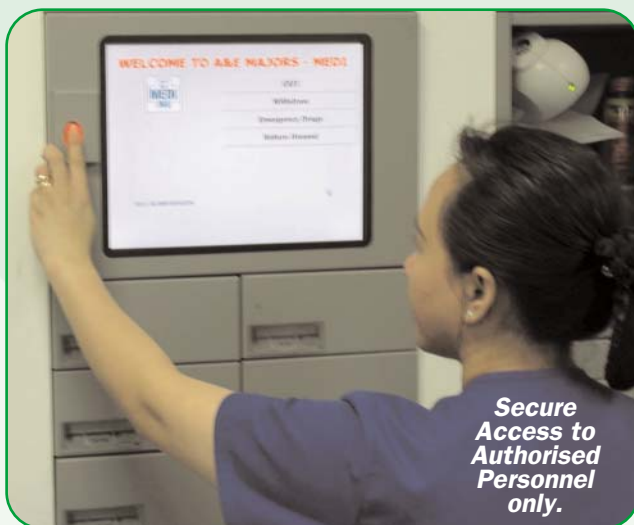


## Introduction:

- Medicines are the second biggest single NHS expense apart from estates.
- A number of problems are related to medicines management at ward-level.
- These include storage, stock management and control, slippage, product recall and hoarding.
- Access to drug cupboard keys, an audit trail, and security are also continuing problems.
- The traditional stock top-up model has been in place for decades and is limited in a number of ways.
- While pharmacy / dispensary based automation is accepted as standard practice, ward based automation is a novel concept in the UK.

## Medi 365:

- Winner of the Queens award for innovation, 2004 and others.
- One unit contains a number of frames - usually between one & five with multiple options
- Fixed storage cupboards sited at the top and bottom of the unit
- Drawers sited in between, which are fitted using a plug and play concept.
- Controlled by a standard computer
- Log on achieved using a PIN number via the touch screen and the fingerprint scanner
- System administrators control access and reporting
- Refrigerated and bulk fluid storage units may be added as annexes to the main unit.
- Automated reporting procedures
- Full audit trail



## Key findings:

- Marked reduction in dose acquisition time - no keys, and stock easy to locate and less likely to be out of stock
- High end-user satisfaction - nursing and medical staff have very positive opinions of the units
- Better stock management - reduction in returns and stock levels and therefore expenditure on medicines
- Time saved counting and date checking stocks
- Better utilisation of staff - nursing staff released to clinical care

## Product selection and management:

- Managed through barcodes
- Select product by therapeutic group and sub group, name or barcode, or through easy search function.
- Link to policies or procedures via Trust intranet, and option to print to local printer
- Restrictions possible depending on staff grade
- Drawers light up and opening restricted to aid product selection
- Verbal and visual safety prompts can be added
- Communication between units in the event of stock outs.
- Automatic re-ordering: the unit automatically generates orders which are then emailed to pharmacy stores.
- Usage reports by individual drug name, and on hand management information.



## Further opportunities to use Medi 365:

- Link to pharmacy / dispensary based automated dispensing units
- Use of sound files
- Facilitation of self-medication
- Dispensing direct to patients
- Use of a mobile unit for medication rounds
- Secure storage and audit trails for high cost items that tend to be mislaid such as tympanic thermometers or ophthalmoscopes.
- Storage and tracking of syringe drivers and blood pressure monitors: Medi 365 can be modified to recharge devices, alert users regarding service intervals, accept damaged or failed devices, and alert engineers when problems arise.
- Blood product management
- Storage of CDs - home office approval obtained.

## Summary:

- An effective solution to poor medicines management
- Stock managed effectively in relation to demand - not restricted to the day of the week.
- Tried and tested technology successfully adapted to NHS needs
- Still clinically immature
- Potential for other areas

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