

Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis at Munson Medical Center

In June 2012, Munson Medical Center was audited by CMS for **noncompliant** practices relating to prophylactic pre-op antibiotics; as a result **pre-op antibiotic orders and documentation are under increased scrutiny.**

A multi-department team, including physicians, has been working to identify gaps in the current processes and to implement process improvement strategies. The team's goal is to **deliver the correct antibiotic to the correct patient at the right time every time.** During its initial assessment, the team detected a 5 percent noncompliance rate. Although there has been minimal harm to patients, there is significant risk related to inadequate documentation and dispensing of pre-op antibiotics in compliance to physician orders.

Primary Areas of Process Improvement

1. Outpatient (quality checks/resolution/documentation/communication)
2. Inpatient (pre-op antibiotic orders and boarding process)
3. Inpatient/Outpatient-Late Add on Processes

We are nearing completion of the Outpatient portion of the project and will start on the inpatient processes within the next several weeks.

Process Improvement Gains

- Reduced defects
 - Improved timing of quality checks and effectiveness of resolution prior to date of surgery
 - Implemented standard – NO case will be boarded without a pre-op antibiotic selection
- Eliminated extra processing and duplication of effort
- Formalized process for follow up and escalation
- Increased the visibility of add-ons and late additions

Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis Protocol Revision

In addition, the team has identified a need to update the current Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis protocol based on new updated guidelines published in February 2013¹ (the last update was 10 years prior). Because of the complexity of integration with PowerPlans and ordering, this update will be broken into phases by surgery section. The OB-GYN section has been completed and the current phase is the Genito-urinary section.

Next Phase of Process Improvement

- Inpatient pre-op antibiotic orders
- Inpatient boarding process
- Inpatient pre-op antibiotic delivery
- Endorsement/expansion of surgical antibiotic prophylaxes protocol
- Physician, pharmacy, and anesthesia documentation

We will share results with the surgical offices as they play an important role in surgical antibiotic prophylaxis. It is important to share not only opportunities for improvement, but successes as well.

1. Am J Health-Sys Pharm. 2013;70:195-283