

# The Journey From ICU - Pharmacists Needed More Than Ever in the Digital World

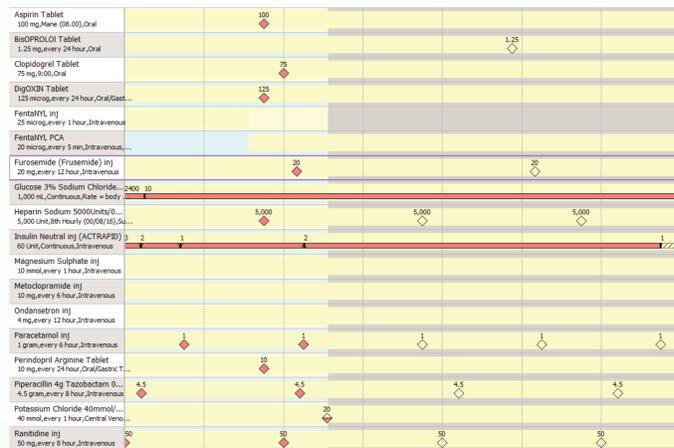
Belinda Badman & Kathlin Tunnah  
Pharmacy Dept., Princess Alexandra Hospital

Re-prescribing medications from an ICU medication chart to a ward medication chart is a known area where preventable errors occur<sup>1</sup>. Electronic prescribing for the general wards was recently introduced at this tertiary hospital, thus a new process needed to be developed by the pharmacists for transcription checking the patients who discharged from ICU. This was made especially important given a concurrent pharmacist audit showed **1 in 3 charts had an error or intervention classified as “clinically significant”**.

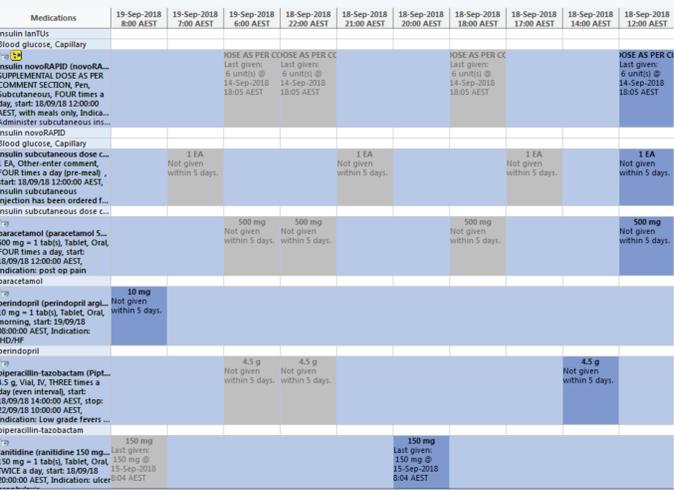
## Aim

To discover the proportion of patient charts seen by the ICU pharmacist prior to ward discharge and ways to improve pharmacist involvement in the discharge process.

Figure 1: How to make sense from this (Metavision – ICU Chart)



To this: (MAR – Ward Chart)



## Results

Out of 280 discharges the pharmacists saw a total of 85% of the charts on weekdays, totalling only 62% of all ICU ward discharges due to a lack of weekend cover.

Figure 2: Audit Results

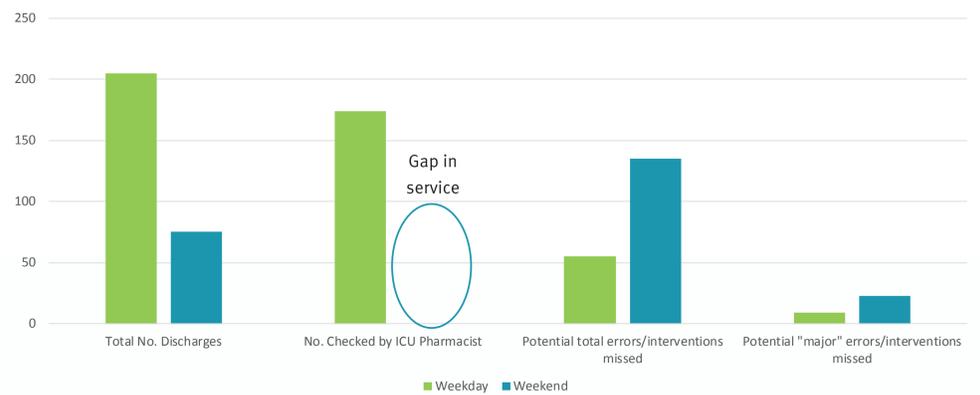
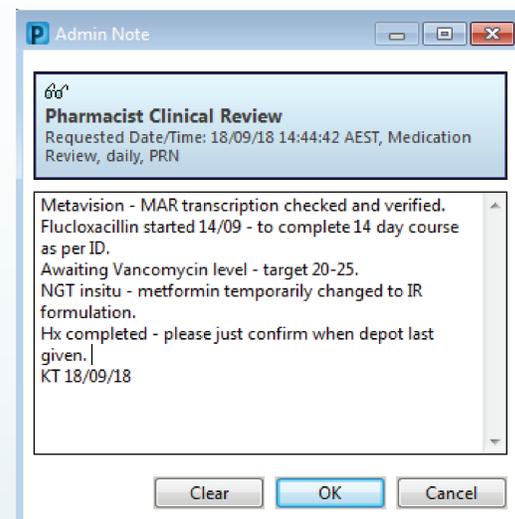


Figure 3: Example of discharge handover note



## Conclusion

A pharmacist checking the re-prescribed chart prior to discharge is an integral part of the ICU discharge process. A standardised digital note was created to advise ward pharmacists chart transcription had been checked. Registrars are now advised to notify the pharmacist once they have completed re-prescribing so it can be checked prior to discharge. The ICU pharmacists will now trial a Saturday morning pharmacy service for 3-4 hours to check discharge charts and expand the weekend pharmacy service.

## Reference

1. Lee J Y, Leblanc K, Fernandes OA, Huh J, Wong G, Hamandi B, et al. Medication Reconciliation During Internal Hospital Transfer and the Impact of Computerized Prescriber Order Entry. Ann Pharmacother. 2010 Dec; Vol 44: 1887-95.