

Project Title

Sourcing of New Medication Supply for Potong Pasir Nursing Home

Project Lead and Members

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- Michelle Lee
- Wong Yoong Kuan

Organisation(s) Involved

Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital

Healthcare Family Group(s) Involved in this Project

Pharmacy

Applicable Specialty or Discipline

Nursing Home

Aim(s)

To ensure a stable medication source is available before PTPNH is operational.

Background

See poster appended/ below

Methods

See poster appended/ below

Results

See poster appended/ below

Lessons Learnt

See poster appended/ below

Conclusion

See poster appended/ below

Additional Information

This project was featured at the Central Health Action & Learning Kampung (CHALK) Poster Showcase 2022.

Project Category

Care Continuum

Intermediate and Long Term Care & Community Care

Nursing Home

Keywords

Nursing Home - Medication Sources

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Sourcing of New Medication Supply for Potong Pasir Nursing Home

Team Members

Richard Tan | Michelle Lee | Wong Yoong Kuan



Introduction

Since 2010, National Healthcare Group Pharmacy (NHGP) Packing Service Centre has been the partner Public Healthcare Institution (PHI) supplying medications to Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH).

Due to the expansion of our capacity from 624 beds at BOL to 1,200 beds including Chronic Sick Ward (CSW) and Potong Pasir Nursing Home (PTPNH), NHGP would not be able to provide medications for all KWSH residents.

This resulted in a lack of medication source for the residents at PTPNH. Given that most of the residents have significant past medical history and are on chronic medications, not having a ready source of medications is potentially dangerous for the residents.

Aim

To ensure a stable medication source is available before PTPNH is operational.

Methodology

PLAN

- Negotiate with NHGP to continue to supply medications to PTPNH without ConviDose packing (less services required from NHGP).
 - Identify potential PHIs that KWSH can partner with.
- Formulate back-up plans should there be no available PHIs to partner with.

DO

- Concurrently proposed to various PHIs for partnership
- Explored purchasing of medications from vendors directly and formulating own internal formulary
- Communicated with other stakeholders (Finance, Business Office, and Ministry of Health) regarding subvention of medications under the standard drug list.
- Updated management regarding progress and difficulties
- NHGP proposed for Kallang Polyclinic to be the official partnering PHI for PTPNH until the packing service centre has the capacity to take on PTPNH in the future

CHECK

- Communicated with Kallang Polyclinic and formulated a workflow for supply of medications.
- Reviewed formulary of Kallang Polyclinic and alternative source is still necessary
- Formulary of Kallang Polyclinic lacks a variety of medications that Geriatric patients are frequently on.
- Formulated new screening procedure with admission office to screen for medications not found in Kallang Polyclinic
- A longer duration of 3 months is requested if not available at Kallang Polyclinic (usual duration: 1 month). This allows ample time for the pharmacy to source for alternatives.

ACT

- Enrolled the help of Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) Outpatient Pharmacy to supply remaining medications that Kallang Polyclinic do not keep, to ensure residents receive the best care as intended
 - Proposed requirements needed and reviewed agreement
- Enlisted the support of Transport department to courier prescriptions and medications to and from TTSH

Results

After officially partnering with Kallang Polyclinic and TTSH, PTPNH is able to secure a ready and stable source of medications. This includes medications that KWSH would not be able to purchase due to the lack of appropriate licenses e.g., controlled medications and exemption medications not registered in Singapore.



The agreement with both PHIs also allows pharmacy to request for medications within a reasonable time frame of 3 working days. In urgent circumstances, an alternative workflow may be triggered for collection on the same day.

Partnering with PHIs allows us to give residents the certainty that medication supply is stable. Without having to create an internal formulary, there is no need for management of large inventories of medications and can reduce costs and waste for KWSH.

Lessons Learnt

- Self-sufficiency is important as all PHIs have limited capacity during a pandemic.
- Novel and simple methods may be used to ensure medication safety e.g. using a different coloured paper for prescriptions for different locations.



Sustainability

- The process of ordering of medications and supply of medications from Kallang Polyclinic and TTSH would be continuously reviewed as the bed occupancy rate increases. This allows Pharmacy to continuously brainstorm methods to ensure efficiency and prevent errors.

