A descriptive analysis of PRN (pro re nata) medication use at Ontario Shores

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GUESS!

How many PRNs do you think were administered from June 1 to August 31, 2015?
Objectives

• Learn about the practice of PRN administration at Ontario Shores
  – Who receives PRNs?
  – How many do they receive?
  – What types of medication do we administer?
  – Why do we administer PRNs?
  – Are they effective?
Background

• **PRN = Pro re nata**
  – As the circumstance arises
  – At the nurses discretion

• **Reasons for administration** (Baker et al. 2002)
  – aggression, agitation, distress and psychotic symptoms

• **Timing** (Baker et al. 2002)
  – After 6 pm
  – Shift change
Background

• Administration
  – There is a small subset of patients who receive the majority of PRNs (Baker et al., 2008; McKenzie et al. 1999)
Effectiveness of PRN

• Lack of clear evidence
  – Effectiveness rates can range from 32% - 80% (Geffen et al.)

• Poor documentation of PRN use
  – No information on side effects or desired outcome
The main purpose of our study was to determine frequency and documentation practices, as well as effects of PRN medication for inpatients at Ontario Shores
Methodology

• A retrospective chart review
  – Charts were identified and data extracted between June 01, 2015 and August 21, 2015
  – Qualitative information extracted from nursing notes
Results: Administration

- Approximately 8200 administrations of psychotropic PRN medications
- 91% of patients received at least one PRN
- 15% of patients received 70% of the PRNs administered
- 52% were benzodiazepines; 40% were antipsychotics
Results:

*Pre-administration*

- Prescribed indication
- Documented reason
- Congruence
  - Clear congruence in approximately half the cases
Results: Post-administration

- Effectiveness
  - Documentation
  - Outcome
- Side effects
Clinical implications

- Prescribed indication vs. documented reason
- Lack of congruence
- High utilizers of PRNs
Clinical implications continued

- Effectiveness
  - For whom?
  - How to measure?
- Side effects
  - Cognitive bias?
Next Steps

• Sharing information to stakeholders regarding documentation, etc.
• Examining the non-pharmacological interventions documented by nursing staff prior to PRN administration
Questions? Comments?