

# 2012 Military Health System CONFERENCE



## Automated Dispensing Cabinet Improvements Implemented In Army Hospitals To Decrease Medication Errors

The MHS: Healthcare to Health

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January 2012



US Army MEDCOM, Patient Safety

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- Automatic Dispensing Cabinets (ADCs):
  - Storing, Dispensing, Controlling & Tracking medications
  - Used in U.S. Army Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs)
  - Continue to be a reported indicator for medication errors
  - Incorporates multiple processes & multi-disciplinary access
- Research identified:
  - Effectiveness measures
  - Utilization shortcomings
  - Medication error rates
  - Recommendations for the safe use of ADCs



# Literature Review & Methodology



- Review of the literature focused on:
  - Competency, Technology, Human Error
  - Medication errors after technology implementation
  - Innovation, ideas and error prevention
  - Education and training strategies to reduce errors
- The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) ADC Self Assessment & Education:
  - Assessment administered 2x, 18 months apart, to 10 U.S. Army MTFs
  - Education by ISMP & U.S. Army MEDCOM Patient Safety Program, offered between the two assessments

# Results & Recommendations



- Improvements made at 10 MTFs w/comparative data from 380 U.S. civilian hospitals
- Confidence distributions: 75% of the self assessments showed significant differences among the 10 MTFs
- Comparative data: civilian hospitals reported 78% compliance rate, 10 U.S. Army hospitals reported a pre self assessment compliance rate of 81% and a post self assessment compliance rate of 86%
- Emphasis on multi-D leadership support & improvement strategies
- The ISMP self assessment acted as a stand-alone checklist for ADC safe use recommendations contributing to medication error reduction strategies

# Questions & Contact Information



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