

Barcode Medication Administration Workaround



Barcode scanners are utilized in medication administration to increase patient safety and reduce medication errors.



Best Practices

- Scan wristbands and medications prior to administration
- Document at time of administration

(Patterson, Rogers, and Render, 2004)



References

Patterson, E.S., Rogers, M.L., & Render, M.L. (2004). Fifteen best practice recommendations for barcode medication administration in the veterans health administration. *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Safety*, 30(7): 355-365.

Observed Gap in Best Practice

- Nurses scanning medication bar code long before or after administration and/or ingestion of the medication
- Nurses taking variable time to prepare and/or administer the medications.
- Attaching barcode to object in room to scan, instead of scanning wristband and medication