

Medication Cart Security

Issue:

As nurses complete their medication pass along with other care, the traditional method of locking the medication cart has a high rate of failure.

Background:

- Clinicians may forget to lock the cart.
- They may be called away for a resident emergency.
- Clinicians nurses may choose to leave the cart open due to a belief that the risk is low and the inconvenience of repeatedly unlocking it.
- In addition, keys may be misplaced or stolen, leading to controlled substance theft or tampering.

Recommendation:

Biometric or proximity technology can ensure the cart stays locked and can improve the tracking of individuals who have access to controlled substances. As a facility invests in medication carts or updates the equipment used by their clinicians, the team recommends looking into technological solutions to improve security.

Links that may be helpful:*

<https://www.medicalcarts.org/blog/security-options-medication-cart>

<http://shop.gohcl.com/default.aspx?page=item%20detail&itemcode=19151>

<https://www.pppmag.com/documents/V3N4/v3N4p12-18cartsbuyers.pdf>

*The CMP Advisory Group does not recommend a specific brand or type of technology. Each home should look at the technology and security options available and cross-reference that with their available financial resources to choose the right solution for their clinicians and residents.