Using a fingerprint-access medication cabinet to improve efficiency in an Emergency Department.

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Results

Mean time to locate keys 2.4 minutes (n=110)

Pre and post implementation times

- Pre-implementation mean 7.5 min (sd=13 min, n=110)
- Post-implementation mean 1.1 min (sd=0.7 min, n=107)
- Mean time difference 6.4 mins (independent t-test, 95% CI 3.9-8.9 minutes)
Questions
Medication cabinet
Financial Impact of the implementation of a fingerprint-accessed medicine cabinet in an Emergency Department.

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Objective & Background:

In a busy emergency department, the equipment to give medications to isolated patients needs to be accessible and easily identifiable. The time spent waiting for them to be passed can lead to patient dissatisfaction.

We report the evaluation of the Medicin cabinet where patients had to be fingerprinted to access the medications.

Methods:

We used an electronic system that allowed the time taken by the patient to reach the medication cabinet and the time the medication was dispensed. We aimed to measure the number of medications dispensed and the time taken to complete the process. We also collected data on the cost of implementing the system.

Results:

The mean time to administer the medications was 1 minute lower after the implementation of the Medicin cabinet. 8% of patients had a significant improvement in the process. The number of medications dispensed was 10% higher, but the number of times a medication was dispensed was 5% lower.

Conclusion:

This study shows that the cost of installation of the cabinet was recovered in saving time among patients.

The use of fingerprinting technology in the emergency department results in a significant decrease in the time taken to administer medications, with a noticeable improvement in patient satisfaction.