

Authors:

Kristen Farnet, PharmD Candidate, University of Kansas School of Pharmacy
Joann Moore, RPh, DPLA, Medication Safety Coordinator, The University of Kansas Health System

Title: Medication Patch Use Policy Evaluation

Purpose: The variability among transdermal and/or topical patches along with the potential to cause patient harm illustrates the importance of monitoring patch application processes. The Medication Patch Use policy at The University of Kansas Health System was implemented to eliminate medication patch errors. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the compliance of the policy through a Drug Use Evaluation.

Methods: This was conducted as a retrospective, single center chart review of inpatient admits with a prior to admission medication patch and/or new order for a medication patch between September 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019 at TUKHS. Data collected from electronic medical records included eligible patients, patch orders and linked verification orders, and sentinel incidents.

Results: Of the seventy-eight individuals who were evaluated for a skin assessment upon admission, 60% had improper documentation, 32% were not assessed and 8% had proper documentation. Of the 68% who had documentation assessed, 21% had a documented prior to admission (PTA) patch. All of these patches were properly rescheduled. For 81 patients, there were 604 opportunities for patch checks and MAR documentation. Of those 604 opportunities, 462 were documented with an action of "present-intact," one with "present-damaged," and six with "absent." There were 135 missed opportunities as there was no verification order linked to the original patch order.

Conclusions: The majority of patients had some sort of documentation recorded; however, it was not consistent. All PTA patches were properly rescheduled. It was determined patches with missed verification checks occurred due to improper order entry upon patient admission. Additional patch checks were documented but resulted in objective findings. An increase in reported safety events occurred post implementation and were related to non-compliance or identifying errors that may not have been previously detected.