Caring about point-of-care samples: a quality improvement project

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Abstract

Background: Point of care testing (POCT) provides a timely and accurate addition to the emergency department (ED) to enable faster decision-making. The paediatric ED in West Middlesex University Hospital uses a Horiba Microsemi CRP LC-667G analyser. It was observed that processed samples were frequently missing the correct patient medical record numbers (MRN), posing a potential risk to patient safety.

Aim: To quantify the number of processed samples lacking correct patient identification details and evaluate the effectiveness of a staff teaching session targeting improved compliance.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of 200 processed POCT samples was conducted at baseline. A staff educational session was then provided on correct use of the analyser and including data entry procedure. Following this intervention, a further 200 processed POCT samples were analysed.

Results: In the pre-intervention data set, only 9.5% of samples had patient MRNs accurately recorded. Following the educational intervention, this increased to 15%.

Conclusion: The staff teaching session demonstrated a positive impact on compliance with correct data entry. However, overall accuracy remains suboptimal indicating that this intervention alone is insufficient and further systematic measures are required to achieve robust compliance.

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Biography

Dr Hughes is an Emergency Medicine registrar based in North West London. In his clinical work he is most passionate about providing excellent emergency care for the most critically unwell patients. His principal research interests are emergency and critical care, and systematic barriers within healthcare - a focus developed during his BSc in international health. His hobbies include DIY, surfing, and running with his dog, Monty.

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