A MEDICATION CARD FOR THERAPEUTIC RECONCILIATION IN A HOSPITAL SETTING

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INTRODUCTION

The development and implementation of a therapeutic reconciliation tool, in a hospital setting, is a challenge faced today by the majority of healthcare professionals. Cova da Beira Hospital Centre in Covilhã, Portugal, implemented its own therapeutic reconciliation project in 2010.

This project consists in a computer program that generates a Medication Card (MC) for each patient, with a complete and updated medication list.
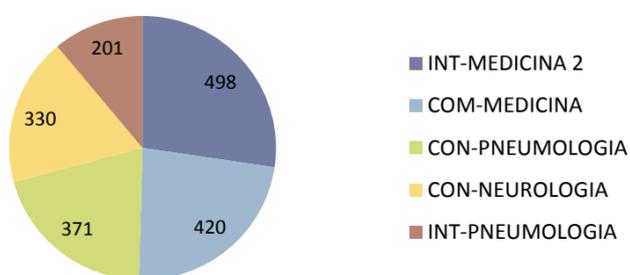
The program has a medication database, including specific information on how to take the medicine and special precautions, which is updated every month according to data from National Medicines Database.

OBJECTIVE

Our main goal was to assess the impact and the results obtained with this project, from its inception date, 05-05-2010, to 31-05-2018.

RESULTS

NUMBER OF MEDICATION CARDS PRODUCED PER CLINICAL SERVICE

- INT-MEDICINA 2: 498
- COM-MEDICINA: 420
- CON-PNEUMOLOGIA: 371
- CON-NEUROLOGIA: 330
- INT-PNEUMOLOGIA: 201

During this period of time:

- 2815 MCs were created.
- Average patient age was 71 years old.
- The number of doctors involved was 54, which reveals a great adhesion to the project.
- 13684 active drugs in the computer program's database, of which 3132 (≈23%) have specific information for the patient.
- Average number of drugs present in the MC was 8, a clear indicator of polipharmacy among the patients.
- The 5 clinical services which produced more MCs were the inpatient service of Medicine II, the Medicine, Pneumology and Neurology consultation services, and the inpatient service of Pneumology, which accounted for 18%, 15%, 13%, 12% and 7% of all the MCs produced, respectively.

CONCLUSION

The Medication Card revealed itself to be very useful when performing therapeutic reconciliation at discharge and consultation, contributing to a reduction in medication errors and promoting patient health literacy.