



Cornell University

MEDICATION CART ERGONOMIC CHECKLIST

ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Background

With the implementation of electronic health records in healthcare, the use of medication carts is becoming more common. This checklist provides guidance on the ergonomic design of a medication cart as this impacts patient and staff safety and health issues. The checklist is not a list of features, but rather a list of items that affect ease of use, safety, and effectiveness and reduce the chance of a medical error. The checklist can be used to evaluate a single cart or to compare multiple cart designs.

Scoring

The checklist consists of 20 items that assess such things as space, storage, security, lighting, maneuvering, positioning, and hygiene. Each item is assigned a score of 5 or 0 points, depending on whether the cart satisfies the item or not. If an item is not relevant it can be omitted and the scoring can be adjusted accordingly. If all items are relevant, the total maximum score possible would be 100%. The higher the score, the better the overall cart design. If the total score is greater than 80% the cart should perform well for enhanced patient and staff safety. If the total score is 80% or less, consider evaluating other carts for greater patient and staff safety.

The checklist was developed by the collaborative work of a research team. Any questions or comments on this checklist can be sent to either Professor Alan Hedge (ah29@cornell.edu) or Tamara James (tamara.james@duke.edu).

CORNELL MEDICATION CART ERGONOMIC CHECKLIST <i>(circle the score for each of your answers)</i>		Yes	No
1.	Does the cart have adequate workspace for prepping medications?	5	0
2.	Does the cart have lighting to illuminate the medication preparation workspace?	5	0
3.	Does the cart have sufficient storage for medical supplies for the shift?	5	0
4.	Does the cart have interchangeable/customizable drawers of various sizes?	5	0
5.	Is it easy to secure/lock the medication drawers?	5	0
6.	Do the medication drawers open only when patient wristband is scanned?	5	0
7.	Do the medication drawers auto close and lock if left open?	5	0
8.	Does the cart software include medication administration reporting and validation?	5	0
9.	Is drawer labeling/selection software supported when loading medication in the cart?	5	0
10.	Can the drawers be accessed easily and comfortably?	5	0
11.	Is it easy push, pull, turn and maneuver the cart?	5	0
12.	Does the cart have built in lighting to illuminate the keyboard/mouse?	5	0
13.	Can the cart accommodate a scanner in a comfortably reachable place?	5	0
14.	Does the cart accommodate a conveniently positioned printer?	5	0
14.	Can the keyboard and mouse be used at a comfortable height?	5	0
16.	Can the cart accommodate a large enough computer screen?	5	0
17.	Can the computer screen be adjusted horizontally and vertically?	5	0
18.	Can the computer screen be positioned so the nurse can also face the patient?	5	0
19.	Is it easy to clean and keep the cart and related equipment hygienic?	5	0
20.	Is it easy to connect the cart for charging?	5	0
TOTAL SCORE <i>(add the scores to see how well your cart performs out of 100%)</i>		%	

If the total score is 80% or less, consider evaluating other carts for better ergonomic performance.

For further information contact either Professor Alan Hedge (ah29@cornell.edu) or Tamara James (tamara.james@duke.edu).