

A drug distribution system was developed at Bumrungrad hospital, a private general hospital, based on the concept of unit dose system. The pilot system was initially implemented and evaluated in 1 selected patient care area from April 1990 to February 1991 for its impact, efficiency and effectiveness. Practically, 4 procedures were able to be used i.e. direct copy of physicians's order, pharmacy's patient drug profile, 24-hr. medication supply and the pharmacist working in a decentralized pharmacy. The system was computerized as part of an online hospital information system for dispensing, charging and using patient information as well as for inventory control.

Only the drug document cost was evaluated for efficiency of the system. The result was 2.1 baht/patient/day higher than that estimated previously. The impact of the new system on the workload of each nurse significantly decreased drug documentation task 2.81% (20.23 min./day). However the direct patient-care time increased by 3.01% (21.67 min./day) ($\alpha = 0.05$). Furthermore pharmacy workload was reduced in the labeling, counting and drug return process by 100.00, 16.91 and 21.34% respectively but was increased in preparing liquid and injectable drugs and checking of all doses dispensed by 30.42, 19.93 and 89.25% ($\alpha = 0.05$) respectively. The overall pharmacy time was about 12.89% (13.27 min./day) longer in the new system. The attitudinal study showed satisfaction among most personnel involved and the system was implemented hospitalwide

This study suggested that the new drug distribution system may be applicable for use in a private hospital ; however, it remains to be determined whether this system can be used in a hospital where financial and personnel resources are limited.

ภาควิชา
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ลายมือชื่อนิติกร
ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา