

Keywords: health information technology, safety, value

Title: Improving Patient Safety through e-Prescribing

Medical Organization: The Everett Clinic, Everett WA.

Synopsis: The Everett Clinic wanted to evaluate the impact of e-prescribing on medication safety and conducted a pilot study to determine if handwritten prescriptions led to clinical errors and if an e-prescribing system like those that can be found in a computerized physician order entry system would eliminate these errors. The pilot found that very few written prescriptions led to patient harm due to the checks and balances already built into the system through pharmacy and nurse reviews of prescriptions. However, potential prescribing errors occurred frequently. The pilot also found that monitoring labs related to medications offer more potential for reducing harmful errors. Luckily few of these errors touch the patient. The pilot indicated that the CPOE systems have potential for creating efficiencies, decrease administrative costs and increasing safety.

Source: Healthcare IT News "CPOE and patient safety."

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