

PRH Plaster Room Improvements

March 2023

Getting to Good: Productivity and Efficiency

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Abstract: Issues with stock supply have resulted in a need to review the current stock items with the aim to ensure patient quality is met. A review has resulted in a number of savings.

SMART Aim

To reduce the number of additional non-catalogue requests by 50% by March 2023.

Plan

Plaster room stock is ordered via the stores top up system and by placing additional 'Non-catalogue' requests if an item is not available on Oracle through the normal NHS Supply chain route. Due to the changes and unavailability of items, a large number of non-catalogue requests were having to be completed by the plaster room at PRH, reducing the time available for patient care. The plan was to undertake a review of the items that are used frequently within the plaster room with a view to reduce the time spent completing additional orders, whilst exploring the opportunity to reduce costs.

Do

The Senior Orthopaedic Practitioner obtained a list of all items currently used within the plaster room and prioritised based upon the highest used items. Initially the team reviewed a gel filled ankle brace which was purchased directly from the supplier. A new brace is now being ordered that is available from the same supplier but on direct top up from the stores team. Other items such as heel elevators/ short knee comfort braces and Achilles wedges were also originally ordered directly from the supplier but reviewed during the process and added to the ordering system and the direct stores top up.

Study

The team were able to review a large number of items, with the same items being delivered through the NHS Supply chain route. The team were keen to ensure that the quality of the items remained the same or improved during the stock review to ensure that the level of patient care was maintained. A number of other items were also reviewed and added to the Oracle ordering system to allow better stock control and a more efficient ordering process for the team. The team were able to reduce the number of non-catalogue requests by 61% over a three-month period saving an estimated 4 hours.

Overall, in addition to the time saved for the plaster room staff in placing the orders, an additional estimated cost saving of £700 was gained by changing the way in which the orders were placed.

Act

The next steps for teams will be to review the remaining items on the list with a view to add all items to the oracle ordering system and stores top up. Further work to ensure there is a standardised product list across both RSH and PRH will be undertaken to ensure that patients receive the same level of service no matter which site they attend.