THE ROLE OF THE CRITICAL CARE PHARMACIST

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AIM OF SESSION

• Discuss role of critical care pharmacist
• Importance of critical care pharmacist
• Who has a critical care pharmacist in their place of work?
WHY HAVE A CRITICAL CARE PHARMACIST?

• Role has evolved over past 3 decades
• Integral part of the multidisciplinary critical care team (ICS & FICM 2016)
WHAT DOES A CRITICAL CARE PHARMACIST DO?

• Play important role in improving the safe & effective use of medicines (Bourne et al 2016)
• Recognised in GPICS - must be a critical care pharmacist for every critical care unit
• GPICS - must contribute to the daily consultant led ward round (ICS & FICM 2016)
WHY DOES CRITICAL CARE NEED THEIR OWN PHARMACIST?

Critically ill patients often have

• Frequent formulation & dose changes of medicines are required (Arora 2018) due to various patient-related factors and also the speciality of critical care
• Large amount of enteral & parenteral medicines
• Complex pharmaceutical regimens
WHY DOES CRITICAL CARE NEED THEIR OWN PHARMACIST?

• Prone to drug-drug and drug-food interactions
• Acute changes in organ function
• May need treatments such as renal replacement therapies
CRITICAL CARE PHARMACIST

• A pharmacist’s intervention in critical care is associated with the prevention and detection of medication errors and optimisation of medication therapy

• Unintentional medication omission is a potential for harm and a source of medication error on admission to a hospital (Barrett et al 2012)
HOW DO WE PREVENT THESE?

• Medicine reconciliation
• Process of obtaining and communicating ‘the most accurate list of a patient’s current medicines (including drug name, dosage, frequency and route)
• Compare them to the current list in use
• Recognising and documenting any changes and discrepancies

(NICE 2015)
HOW DO WE PREVENT THESE?

• Primary focus in critical care is the acute medical problem
  **BUT**

• Discrepancies relating to the omission of medication used in long term health conditions should be reviewed & resolved by the medical team prior to discharge from critical care
ROLE OF CRITICAL CARE PHARMACIST

Critical care pharmacist –

• Improves medicines-related patient outcomes
• Reduces adverse events
• Intervention by CCP associated with prevention & detection of medication errors
• Optimisation of medication therapy
ROLE OF THE CRITICAL CARE PHARMACIST

• Optimise the impact of medicines prescribed during daily individual patient medication review
• Attendance on ward rounds
• Drug-use evaluation
• Provision of in-service education for nurses and doctors
• Part of nutrition team
• Some may be independent prescribers (GPICS encourages this) as this allows them to prescribe within their level of experience and sphere of competence (ICS, FICM 2016)
• ANY QUESTIONS?