

eMAR is Coming

Round Rock Medical Center is second in the series of HCA hospitals in the Austin Market that will utilize the electronic **Medication Administration Record**, otherwise known as **eMAR**. The roll out will begin August 17th with the Post Partum Unit being the first unit to “go-live”. The members of the eMAR steering committee, along with the pharmacy staff have worked very hard since January to bring this project up on schedule. The primary component of making this system work is the BARCODE. In order for eMAR to work as designed, every single dose of medication must be barcoded and every patient armband must be barcoded. The barcode forms the basis of the patient safety initiative set forth by HCA. For the first time ever, the nurse has a double check at the patient’s bedside for the “five rights” of medication administration; right patient, right medication, right dose, right time, and right route. This is accomplished by scanning every medication and scanning the patient’s armband.

The physician will have access to view the eMAR in real time. A function has been added to the verb strip at the top of the PCI menu screen in Meditech called MAR VIEW <MV>. Doctors will be able to see the exact time a patient received medication, how much they received, and who was administering the medication to the patient. A paper copy of the MAR will print every morning at 1 A.M. and be placed on the chart shortly afterwards, but the paper MAR will always be one day behind. To see the latest, updated record of medication administration, the view of eMAR in PCI provides the most current information.

In PCI, the choice of viewing individual medications under CURRENT MEDICATION ORDERS will remain the same. By pressing the right arrow key twice, the physician will be able to view the administration history on any single medication.

The staff most highly trained on using the eMAR are called Super Users and those individuals will wear bright red polo shirts with the eMAR logo when working on a unit that is going live with eMAR. These individuals are there to help everyone understand how to use eMAR. For physicians, the change is almost transparent. It is little more than locating the function called MAR VIEW in PCI and taking it from there. EMAR has given RRMC a technological tool to increase patient safety and we should all feel good about that.