

Cambridge English for
Nursing

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

UNIT 6 Administering medication

- a** Click on the link below and discuss the following questions in pairs.

<http://www.pensystems.com/gifs/health2a.jpg>

What do you think this equipment is used for?

Have you used this type of equipment before?

- b** Nessa and Kishore, two Nurse Educators, are discussing the introduction of technology onto the ward. Listen to the conversation and answer the following questions.

🔊 Technology 6

- 1 Who uses this type of system?
- 2 What has led to medication errors?
- 3 What happens if there is a dosage error?
- 4 What disadvantage does Kishore mention?

- c** Listen again and mark the following statements True (T) or False (F).

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- 1 Computerised physician order entry (CPOE) allows doctors to enter instructions for the treatment of patients in their care electronically.
- 2 The orders are printed and given to medical staff or to departments such as Pharmacy.
- 3 CPOE can increase delays in completing a medication order.
- 4 The ordering is simple because the system displays the patient's medical history, incorporating evidence-based clinical guidelines to support the treatment.
- 5 CPOE system can't identify adverse drug reactions allergies or treatment conflicts.
- 6 The system can be used at the patient's bedside.

- d** Read the conversation and check your answers to Exercise c.

Kishore: So Nessa, have you used the computerised ordering system before?

Nessa: No, I've never used one but I heard we're introducing them here.

Kishore: Yes, that's right. We're trialling them with a couple of our medics before we introduce them gradually across the whole hospital.

Nessa: So, how do they work?

Kishore: It's very simple really. The system relies on wireless PCs, which are portable and very convenient. The computer system allows direct entry of medical orders into a computer.

Nessa: This would happen as part of point of care treatment, would it?

Kishore: Yes, that's right. It all happens at the patient's bedside – treatment and prescribing in real-time. The doctor can enter written instructions or give verbal instructions for the patient's treatment plan, which the system recognises. This means that there's no need to try to decipher poor handwriting or muttered instructions.

Nessa: Well, that's a huge advantage. We've had problems in the past with non-standard abbreviations and handwriting which is difficult to decipher. These have led to medication errors in the past so I assume using one system will change all of that as well.

Kishore: Exactly, but there are many more advantages. The doctor can view the patient's history and review the treatment plan supported by evidence-based clinical guidelines in the system. The orders go directly from the PC, via a computer network, to medical and nursing staff on the ward or to other departments such as Pharmacy.

Nessa: What about the risk of incorrect drug dosage?

Kishore: Good question. The system has an automatic dosage alert in case of dosage error. It also checks on patient allergies and any potential adverse drug reactions.

Nessa: There seem to be some significant advantages. Any disadvantages?

Kishore: There's the initial cost to set up the system and ...

e In pairs, discuss the following questions.

- 1 What does point of care treatment mean?
- 2 What are the advantages of this system?
- 3 What other disadvantages might there be apart from cost?
- 4 Are you familiar with any similar technologies?
- 5 Have you used patient informatics before?
- 6 Would you introduce such a system into your hospital?

Share your knowledge

Discuss the following questions in class or with a colleague and compare your experience.

Do you have CPOE in your country? If not, what system do you use?

What impact do you think CPOE will have on patient care?

How might it affect the roles of nurses and other healthcare professionals?