

# EVIDENCE BITES

A TRUST-WIDE  
PATIENT SAFETY  
EVIDENCE  
SUMMARY



# Safety Summit



Dr Susan Gilby,  
Medical Director

Purpose: to identify rapid learning or actions following serious incidents which have occurred during the previous week



"Safety Bite"



# A PURPOSEFUL POUNCE

"To seize an opportunity with stealth and persuasion"



**OBSERVE**



**SUMMARISE**



**PRESENT**

# EVIDENCE BITE

- One page summary
- Concise and accessible
- In response to Safety Summit discussions



## Evidence Bites: Druggles

An evidence summary inspired by safety discussions held at the WUTH Safety Summit

AUG 2017

- Good practice
- Evidence of effectiveness
- Barriers to staff uptake
- Benchmarking

### What is a druggle?

A druggle is a team huddle to discuss medications. The medical and nursing staff meet with the pharmacist to review medication harm, risks and near misses, so that processes can be improved.

### Who is using druggles?

The druggle emerged from the SAFE programme being run by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, driven by the use of huddles to embed situational awareness on the ward<sup>1</sup>.

Several NHS Trusts are using druggles, led by Leeds Teaching Hospital<sup>2</sup>. Their Neonatal Unit holds a weekly druggle led by the pharmacist. It is a five minute presentation aimed at increasing MDT communication on medicines related topics, highlight areas for improvement and encourage learning). It includes a hot topic, an anonymised error of the week (for real time feedback and positive and there are plans to roll out weekly druggles to all paediatric wards. Their work won an award for patient safety<sup>3</sup>.

West Hertfordshire has implemented huddles as part of the SAFE programme and Dartford and Gravesham have launched druggles in critical care. WUTH has begun some work in Neonatal to highlight the importance of situation awareness with regard to medication by producing a medicine newsletter.

### How else can the druggle be used?

Meds IQ (a paediatric resource) suggests ways in which the druggle model could be implemented<sup>4</sup>.

### Does it work?

The literature on the use of druggles is sparse. Trusts suggests it has potential to enhance the pharmacists' interventions.

Further

Druggles

Safety checklists in radiology

Distractions and interruptions

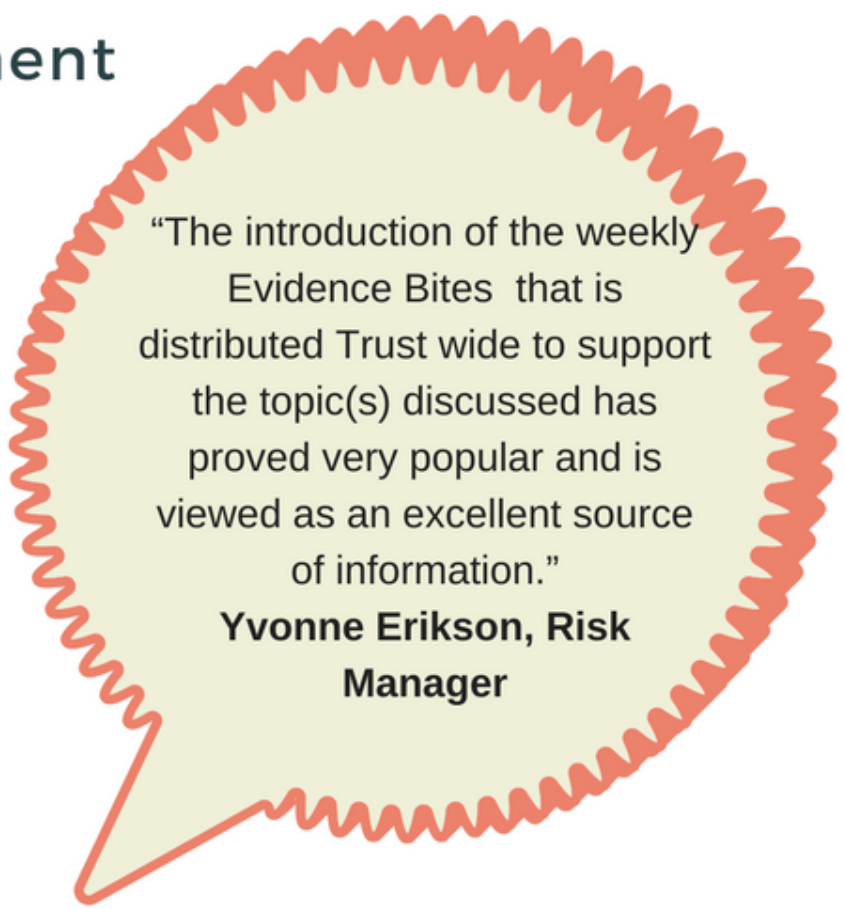
Extravasation

Mental capacity assessment

Patient identification

Red bag initiative

Human factors



“The introduction of the weekly Evidence Bites that is distributed Trust wide to support the topic(s) discussed has proved very popular and is viewed as an excellent source of information.”

**Yvonne Erikson, Risk  
Manager**

# IMPACT



LKS evidence summary endorsed by senior managers

'Closing the loop' on safety incidents and supporting change, innovation and learning

Synthesising skills developed

LKS viewed as responsive and integral part of a key safety process



**KEY  
CHALLENGE:**

**Speed**

# druggles



Pippa Roberts,  
Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management:

“I find our library and knowledge service really helpful and very responsive. We were discussing the implementation of druggles (medicines safety huddles) and wanted to understand the evidence base. In next to no time the search was in my inbox! The information provided helped persuade those who were unsure of how the concept could benefit them by providing clear information on what druggles were and the experience of users to date.”