

Pembroke Regional Hospital Invests \$2.2 Million In New Medication Delivery System

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PEMBROKE - Three months after implementation, the Pembroke Regional Hospital is already seeing the benefits of a new medication delivery system that is designed to enhance safety, improve efficiency and eliminate waste.

Recognized as best-practice in the health care industry and representing a \$2.2 million investment, Automated Dispensing Units (ADUs) were installed on all Clinical units this past February, replacing the traditional manual fill process using medication carts and pill bottles.

ADUs are locked, automated cabinets that provide secure medication storage while making most medications immediately available to be safely dispensed right on the patient unit when they are needed, all while tracking drug distribution.

“The addition of ADUs has completely transformed the way medication is delivered to patients,” said Beth Brownlee, Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services and Chief Nursing Executive. “While we recognize that no technology shift goes without challenges, overall, the transition has gone incredibly well and we are already seeing great benefits.”

While she noted that little has changed from a patient perspective, the majority of benefits are being realized behind-the-scenes where the ADUs have truly modernized the medication delivery process from Pharmacy to patient.

Ms. Brownlee shared that, in addition to the 400 front line staff who received training on this new technology, there was a great deal of work leading up to implementation that involved many team members throughout the organization from Pharmacy to Information Technology, Maintenance and Nursing, under the leadership of Clinical Director Laurie Menard.

“I want to celebrate not only the 76 staff members who stepped up to receive additional training to become super users, trained others and continue to be available to offer support, but also all those throughout the organization who had a part in this immensely important project,” Ms. Brownlee said.

She added that the new technology will be fully compatible with Epic, the hospital’s new health information system featuring the MyChart patient portal which will go-live in November, 2025.

Prior to, and during ADU implementation, PRH Chief Pharmacist Tina Davidson said the Pharmacy team worked hard configuring the new dispensing system while continuing to offer high quality pharmacy services to our patients.

“This transformative change in medication dispensing has brought many changes to the physical layout of pharmacy and the entire workflow for the Pharmacy team. The end result is a 'best practice' medication delivery system that we are all very proud of.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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