

EXPRESS_HealthPRO Canada | Why Hospitals Need Advance Notice of Product Changes

[MUSIC PLAYING]

With all of our bits of technology, our systems all being so complex and integrated together that there is no such thing as a simple change in today's environment.

Changes in colour or sizing of packaging has significant impact. If, for example, it's a drug that we store in a cold blue box, we have to rearrange the kits, that can take some time. If there's a colour change, we need to be very clear about that to other stakeholders so there's no possibility of confusion and causing med errors.

We cannot forget about automation in our IV areas as well for parenteral cytotoxic medications.

Any time there is a product change, we have to look at retraining our robotic technology. This does not happen with a switch. It does take considerable length of time to do it. And in the interim, if we do not get enough sufficient advance notice, then it means that we have to do all of this work by hand, by a human being. Human beings cost money, they make more errors, and it is an increased cost to our healthcare system.

Other technology that we use to dispense medications, the automated dispensing cabinets, have a specialized unit. That unit dose dispenses narcotics for anesthesiology use. We have had instances in the past where a change in the size of the vial has resulted in, instead of one ampoule vial being dispensed, multiple ones, because of the change in the size. And that has the potential obviously to result not only in med errors, but also in there are security issues around any narcotics that may be impacted by that kind of change.

The communication that needs to happen to the hospital is critical. One of the beauties of working with a huge GPO is that that single GPO works with so many hospitals across the country. So we have a mechanism for that communication to happen. We have a way, by filtering through GPO, and therefore, out to our sites, we should be able to deliver the notice.

The longer that we can have to make those changes, the better. We need at least two months notice of changes, and longer, if possible.

[MUSIC PLAYING]