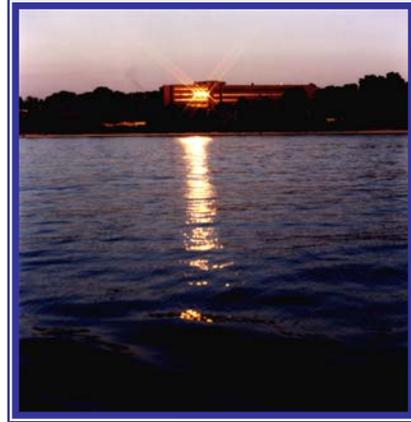




Your Health is Our Specialty

Lessons Learned

- ✦ How we arrived
- ✦ Where we are now



Cheryl Chisholm, CPhT
cchisholm@northernhealth.org

Northern Michigan Regional Hospital



✦ **243-bed, regional referral center in Petoskey, Michigan:**

- cardiovascular
- stroke
- oncology
- orthopedics

✦ **171 physicians in 38 medical specialties and more than 1,600 nurses and support professionals**

Practices To Meet Regulations

- ✦ 1996 Multiple DNR visits
- ✦ Realizing there was a problem

Practices To Meet Regulations

- ✦ **Hired consultant**
- ✦ **Group dedicated to issue**
- ✦ **Medication ID program (annual renewal)**
- ✦ **Talk to everyone (VP's on down)**
- ✦ **Get support wherever you can**
- ✦ **Waste vendor cooperation**
- ✦ **Subscribe to Practice Greenhealth**
- ✦ **Read everything**
- ✦ **Pharmaceutical waste containers tailored to fit individual areas**

Reduce Waste Generation

- ✦ **Repackaged items into smaller units (insulin, bulk tablets)**
- ✦ **Controlled substance liquids (oral syringes on demand, unit dose)**
- ✦ **Purchased unit dose ointments (nitroglycerin, bactroban)**

Reduce Waste Generation

- ✦ **Free clinic screens samples**
- ✦ **Consulted with local POTW regarding sewerage of IV's**
- ✦ **Recycle**

What Worked

- ✦ **Having consultant**
- ✦ **Interviewing waste vendors**
- ✦ **Subscribing to Practice Greenhealth**
- ✦ **Groups dedicated to issue:**
 - **Do-It Group (DIG) for Rx waste**
 - **Environmental Stewardship Committee**

What Worked

- ✦ **Getting input from *all* departments involved**
- ✦ **Keeping Administration informed**
- ✦ **Developing a good working relationship with POTW- resulting in quarterly meetings**

Pharmacy Recycling/Reuse Efforts

- ✦ White/gray board = 1 ton per year
- ✦ Glass
- ✦ Plastic #1, #2
- ✦ Paper
- ✦ Magazines

Pharmacy Recycling/Reuse Efforts

- ✦ Offered free to employees
 - Styrofoam coolers
 - Ice packs
- ✦ Child development center
 - Plastic trays
 - Foam
 - Labels

What Did Not Work

- ✦ **Thinking we could do it without outside help**
- ✦ **Charging ahead without really understanding scope of impact**
 - **impact to organization**
 - **impact to other departments**
- ✦ **Not getting input from all departments involved**

What Did Not Work

- ✦ **Having program fragmented**
- ✦ **Letting some things drag on**
- ✦ **Thinking everyone is on board**
- ✦ **Afraid to ask for help**
- ✦ **Thinking that there are stupid questions**

What Will Not Work

- ✦ **Thinking that you are done**
 - Rx waste never done- many variables
 - DEQ-JCAHO-OSHA
 - Fed-State- local
 - RCRA- NIOSH
 - Formulary additions/deletions



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