



In a French university hospital, a first preliminary study conducted in 2017 among the mothers of a postpartum unit showed that **82% of medication administrations were not traced in the electronic medical chart**. In this unit, for women postvaginal delivery only, midwives ensure patient management and prescribe basic pain medication, which are self-managed by the mother. **These results reveal the insufficient traceability of self-managed medication in the postpartum unit.**

Objectives

To evaluate the professional practices of midwives before and after implementation of **medication safety procedures by pharmacists.**

Methods

The postpartum unit is divided in four 12-bed, 18 midwives are working 12-hour shifts. The first round of the audit took place in January 2018. The main criteria evaluated was bedside pillboxes agreement with prescription and computerized traceability of self-administrations. All mothers systematically have the postvaginal delivery analgesia protocol prescribed and their individual chronic treatment if applicable.

A mandatory computer commentary was added on the prescription software to be filled by midwives every 12 hours at pillbox change to allow for twice daily traceability of self-administered medication.

At the same time, a medication safety action plan including midwives awareness to medication errors was implemented.

Following the implementation of safety procedures, a second audit round was led in September 2018.

Results

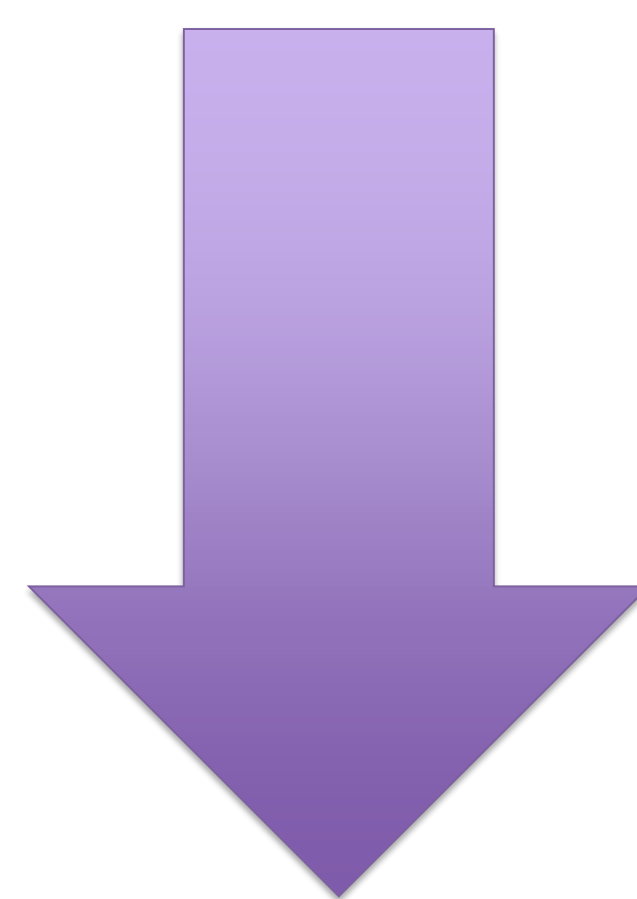
The first audit round involved 16 patients and revealed that:

- Only, **69% of pillboxes were in agreement with prescription.**
- **Prescription was computerized for 25% of non-protocol medications.**
- **25% of non-protocol administrations were traced whereas 12.5% of protocol analgesics were.**
- **No medication administration was traced in real-time.**

A mandatory computer commentary was added on the prescription software



ACTION



Medication safety action plan awareness to medication errors was implemented



The second audit including 11 patients, revealed that:

- **100% of pillboxes were in agreement with the prescription.**
- **The prescription was computerized for 100% of non-protocol prescriptions.**
- **90% of non-protocol medication administrations were electronically traced in real-time.**
- **75% of the per protocol analgesic administrations were electronically traced in real-time.**



Conclusions

These pharmacist-led medication safety actions made it possible to ensure safe self-management of postpartum treatments by mothers. Pharmacists involvement also helped meet the requirements of the French National Health Authority (HAS) for traceability of medication administration and medication self-management.

