

Dose-dispensed medicine in sector transitions between hospital and home

What was done?

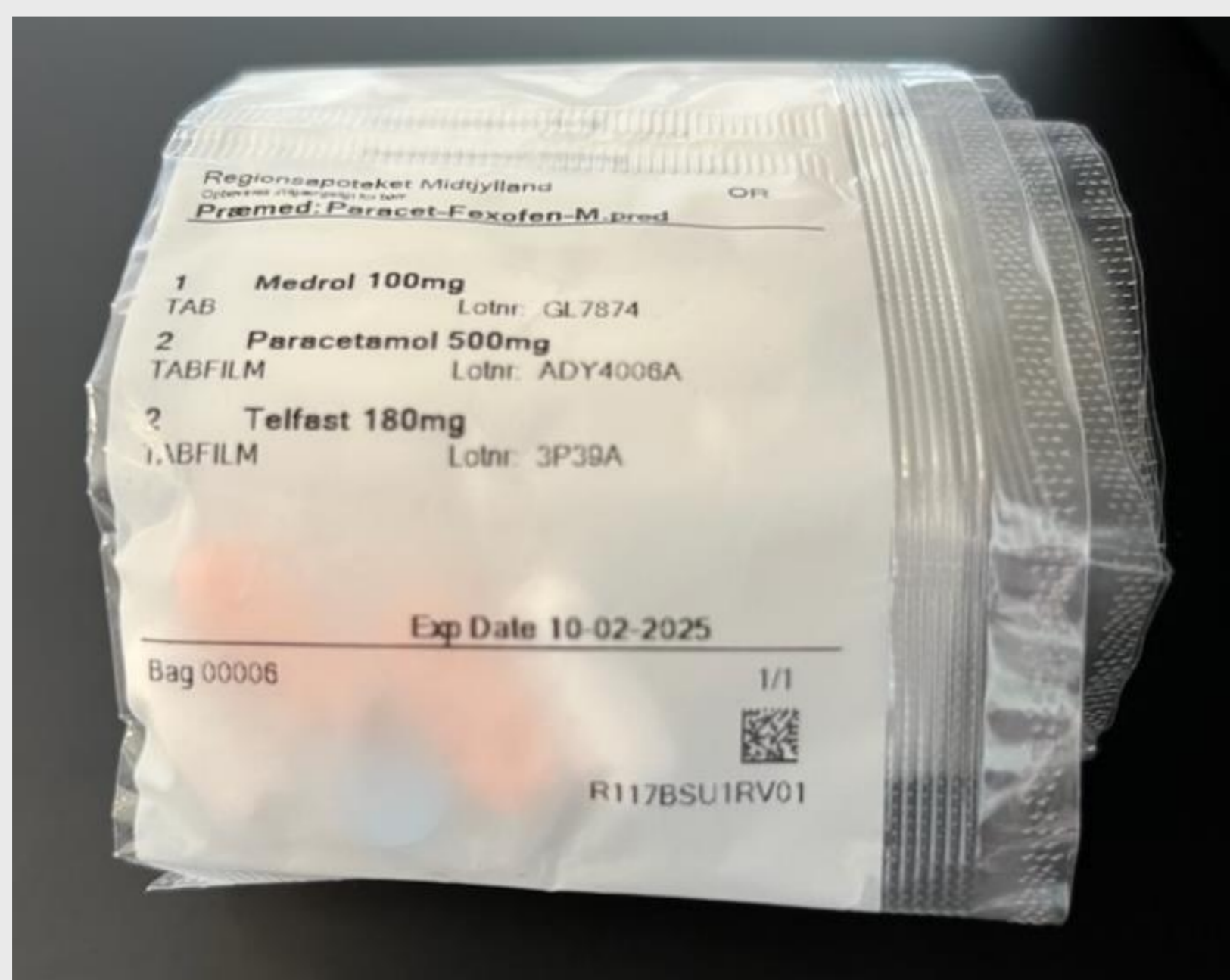
- Automatic multidose Dispensing System (ADS) was implemented in the Hospital Pharmacy Central Denmark Region
- New software functionalities were developed in the medication module (MEM) of the electronic patient record
- A new functionality makes it possible for nurses and pharmaconomists at the hospitals to manually order dose-dispensed medicine (DDM) to patients who are discharged from the wards. The orders are sent from MEM to the ADS on one patient at a time
- Medication can be ordered hourly until noon

Medicine for 1-5 days of use can now be dose-dispensed (DD) for the patients ready for discharge.



Why was it done?

- To support patients in the transition between hospital and home it has been important to make an easy way to order and dispense medication
- To improve patient safety. The transition from hospital to home now uses a concept regarding DDM that is known in the primary healthcare sector
- More time for the patient to buy new medication at a local pharmacy after discharge
- More time for the primary health care sector to incorporate newly added/removed drugs to DDM from local pharmacies



How was it done?

- Performed development tasks:
 - Identification of needed functionalities
 - Identification of necessary IT-development
 - Requirement for ADS
 - Developments in MEM
 - Development and implementation of new workflows in the clinic

Development was performed over a year in collaboration between doctors, nurses, IT specialists and pharmacy staff.

What has been achieved?

- All clinical wards that receive DDM can now manually order DDM for patients who are being discharged
- Reduced time spent by nurses dispensing medicine for patients who are being discharged

"It is a great help for us to be able to order DDM. Even if it is not for many patients on daily basis, it still helps, especially with the more "drug-heavy" patients".

Clinical Director, RN

What's next?

- Use of the function for inhouse patients who isn't admitted when DDM automatically is ordered for a ward. For example patients who are admitted to a surgical unit but later is transferred to a ward that receives DDM
- Investigation of how the use of DDM in connection to discharge is perceived by healthcare workers in the primary sector

