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Implementing Standardized Intravenous Medication Line Labeling to Prevent Errors

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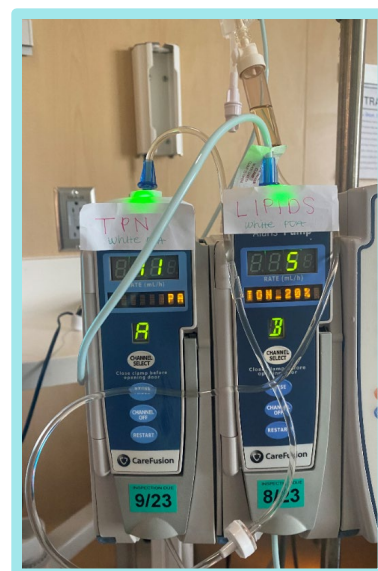
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Introduction

Nurses use handwritten or color-coded days of the week labels to manually mark medication lines and pumps to identify the correct line or drain. This current practice takes additional time and presents an ongoing risk for medication errors and inefficiencies in medication delivery due to inaccurate or illegible labeling.

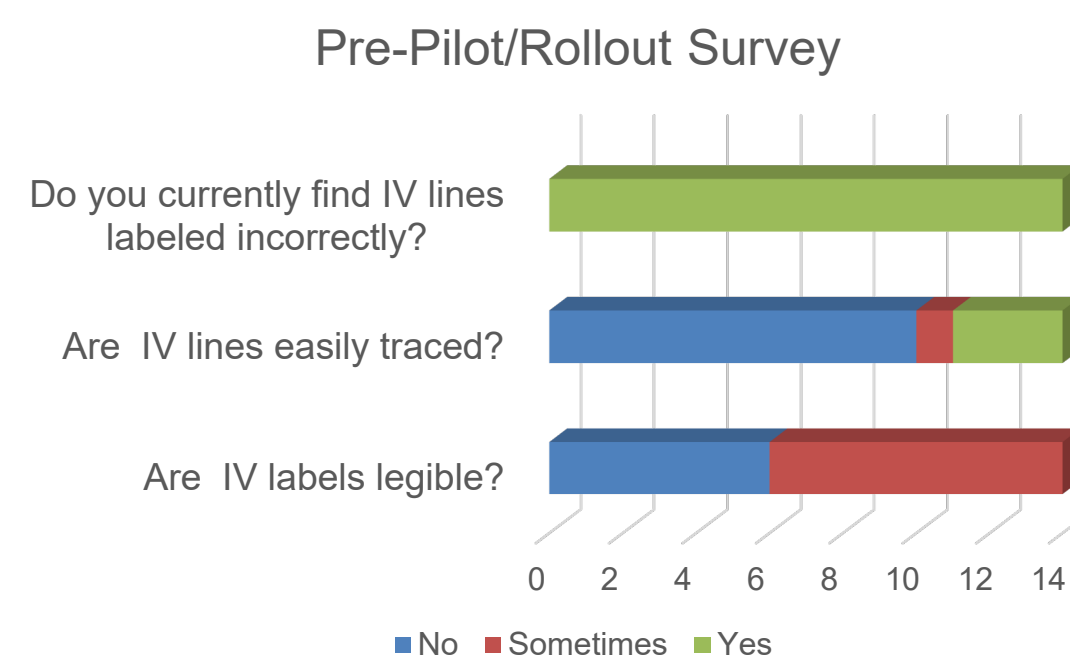


Methods

A comprehensive review of third-party solutions was undertaken, aimed at automating the creation of labels and standardizing their formatting. After reviewing available solutions, the Vigilant label printer was selected.

- The objective of this project was to streamline the labeling of medication lines and drains, ultimately reducing the risk associated with medication errors.
- A pilot was conducted in three different units of the hospital (2 ICUs and 1 inpatient) over a 3-month period.

Results



Discussion

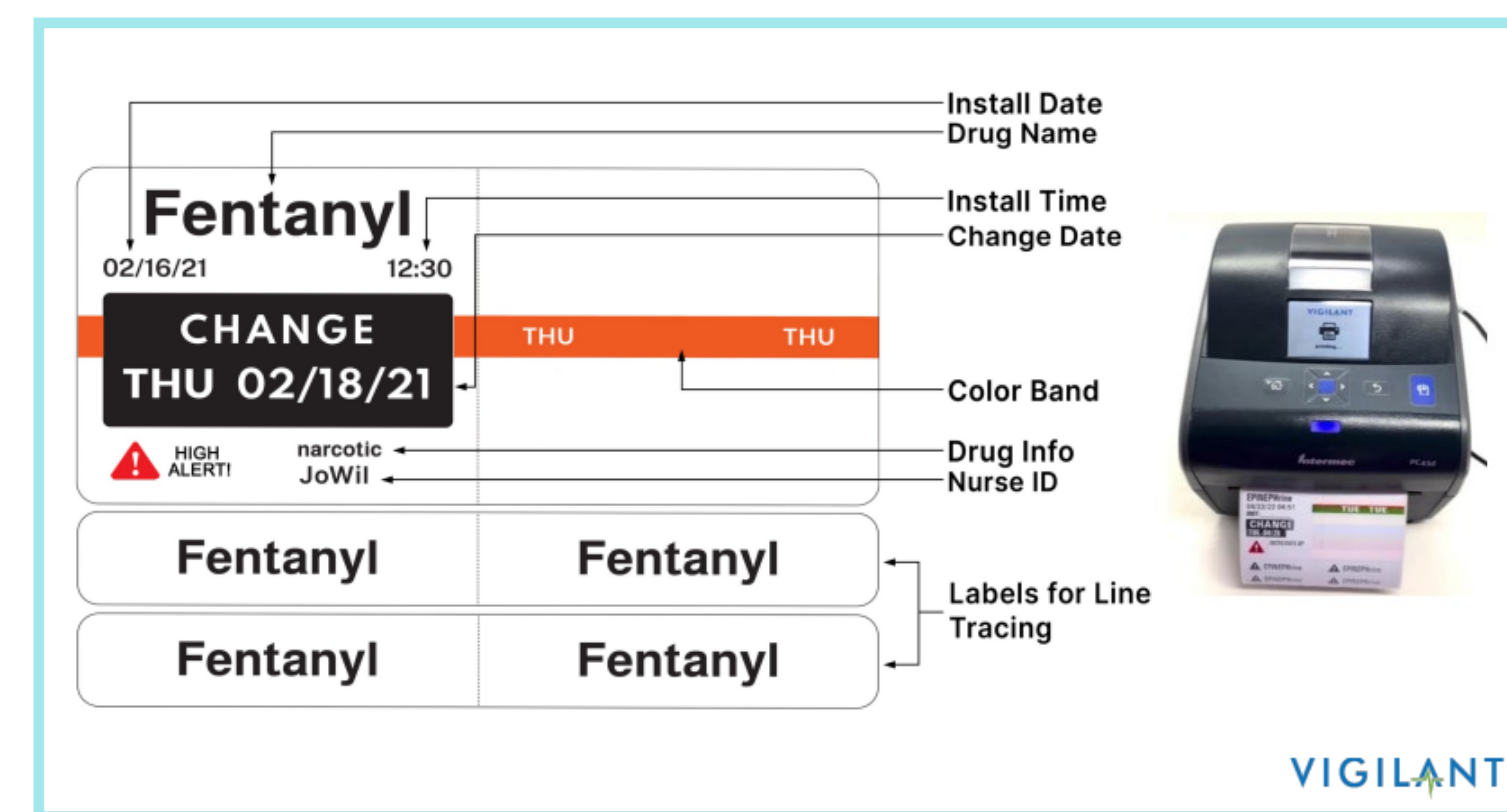
During the pilot, feedback surveys were collected to assess staff feedback with using the Vigilant Label Printer. Nurses were asked if:

- the product improved the line labeling process and compliance,
- if time was saved using the product
- if line tracing was improved and
- if they would advocate for implementation of the product

Results from the survey indicated that nurses supported the new product and process improvement. The feedback from these surveys was positive, highlighting the ease of tracing line labels and the improved legibility of medication names and expiration dates. Survey data supported moving forward in standardizing this change in our organization.

Conclusion

Standardizing the process of labeling medication lines and drains represents best practice in our organization. It eliminates the need for workarounds and enables nurses to swiftly and accurately identify these lines through machine-printed labels. The implementation of this on-demand IV medication labeling system will not only facilitate the easy identification of lines but also significantly enhance patient safety by mitigating the risk of medication-related errors.



Use this QR code for educational video on how to use Vigilant labeling printer