



Lebanon VA
Medical Center

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News Release

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LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER CELEBRATES MILESTONE

Genius is at work everyday at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers across the country. F. Scott Fitzgerald once said, "Genius is the ability to put into effect what is on your mind." For Sue Kinnick, a Registered Nurse at the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka, Kansas, her revolutionary idea occurred in 1994 while returning a rental car. Seeing the rental car employee scan a bar code located in the trunk of the car was all it took for Kinnick. Why can't we deliver medications in a similar fashion was her thought. Her genius idea morphed into a prototype medication verification and administration documentation system that was designed to reduce and potentially eliminate medication errors throughout VA. This led to the development of the Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) software. In August 1999, BCMA version 1.0 was deployed throughout VA's medical centers including Lebanon VA Medical Center. To date, over 1.3 billion doses have been documented as administered using BCMA.

Ten years later, Lebanon VA Medical Center celebrates the revolution of BCMA. According to the Director of the Veterans Health Administration, Bar Code Resource Office, Chris Tucker, RPh, "BCMA is so revolutionary because it uses point of care bar code scanning technology to provide a safety net for Veterans receiving medications as inpatients." Tucker explains that since the majority of medication errors occur at the point of administration, the positive patient identification features of the BCMA software ensure the Veteran receives the correct medication ordered, in the right dose, at the appropriate time. All of this critical information is captured using the BCMA software and is accessible to anyone providing care to the Veteran through VA's Electronic Health Record System. "This is another tool the Lebanon VA Medical Center utilizes to reduce errors in medication dispensement. We strive every day to provide EXCELLENCE in ALL," says Robert W. Callahan, Jr., Director of the Lebanon VA Medical Center.

What began as one VA employee's stroke of genius is now an integrated and widely accepted process throughout health care. In the future, Veterans will see this same technology replicated for outpatient clinic medication administration. If the next 10 years prove to be as successful as the previous decade, VA will continue to be at the forefront of the technologic revolution for our Veterans, always putting their health and safety first. HAPPY BIRTHDAY BCMA!!!

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