

A Study on Medication Errors

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Abstract - A medication error, an avoidable event causing harm to patients, can occur at various stages of the treatment process. This study aims to detect and analyze medication error reports, contributing to the prevention of future errors and enhancing medication efficacy and safety. The research underscores the significance of interconnected decisions that optimize the balance between benefits and harm in limiting medication errors.

Keywords - include medical error, detection, adverse event, dispensing, healthcare, safety, efficacy, healthcare professionals, quality of care, management, failure of machines, safer practices, work environment, morbidity, fatality.

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INTRODUCTION

Medical errors within healthcare systems arise from factors such as poor communication, inadequate information flow, lack of training, and machine failures.

These errors, occurring at any treatment stage, can result in severe morbidity and adverse events. The study aims to outline the frequency, stage, and types of medication errors, analyzing the harm to improve reporting systems. Clinical pharmacists play a pivotal role in identifying and preventing medication errors.

Despite numerous case reports and media coverage, systematic research is essential for monitoring safety, identifying unsafe practices, and implementing safety measures.

Common Themes of Barriers to Reporting medical errors

Theme	Number of studies reported this theme as a significant barrier
Fear of consequences	19
Lack of feedback	8
Work climate/culture	8
Poor understanding of ME and the importance of reporting ME	6
Time consuming	5
Lack of reporting system	3
Personal factors	3

DETECTION AND REPORTING

The accurate frequencies of medication errors remain unknown, causing dissatisfaction and impeding progress monitoring. Encouraging the reporting of errors with simplified and standardized processes is crucial.

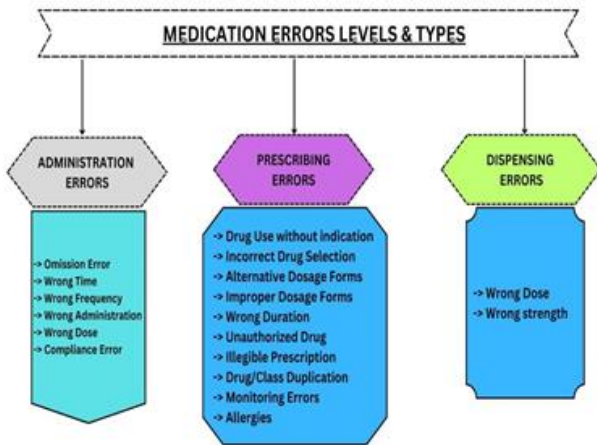
Health care professionals often hesitate to report errors due to fear of liability, job loss, and a loss of colleagues' confidence. Organizations must cultivate a supportive atmosphere for error examination, focusing on preventing future errors. Timely analysis of medication error reports can reveal opportunities for improvement and system changes.

PATIENT WELLBEING

Assessing risk and damage to patients is essential for achieving ultimate patient safety.

Providing safe services will help restore the community's trust in the healthcare system. Distortions are a prevalent cause of medication errors, emphasizing the need for a culture that recognizes safety challenges and implements practical solutions instead of fostering a culture of blame, shame, and punishment.

Effective communication is achieved through clear and simple means, and faulty systems must be redesigned while professionals are adequately trained to utilize technological advances.



CLASSIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATION ERRORS

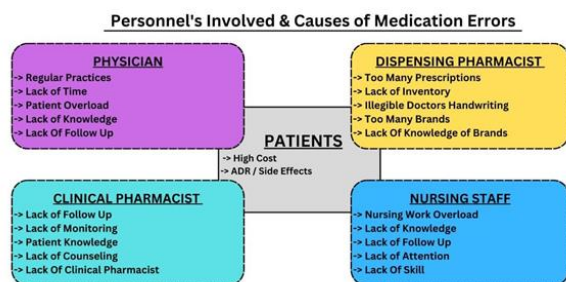
Errors occurring during medication administration involve giving the wrong drug, incorrect dosage, administering via the wrong route, or administering at the wrong time.

CLASSIFICATION OF PRESCRIBING ERRORS

A prescription error is a failure in the prescription writing process, resulting in incorrect instructions about drugs, dosage, or inappropriate instructions.

CLASSIFICATION OF DISPENSING ERRORS

Dispensing errors occur when the pharmacist healthcare professional provides the wrong medication or incorrect dosage due to misinterpretation of the prescription, confusion between similar drug names, or incorrect labeling.



PREVENTION OF MEDICATION ERRORS

Pharmacists, drug manufacturers, information systems, and hospital personnel can collectively reduce medication errors.

Adhering to the "five rights" of medication use—right patient, drug, dose, time, and route—is crucial. Physicians can contribute by observing basic safety practices in drug prescribing, such as writing clearly and avoiding abbreviations. The medication error rate formula involves dividing observed errors by opportunities for errors and multiplying by 100.

CONCLUSION

Early detection and intervention in medication errors improve the therapeutic outcomes, posing significant risks to patient safety.

Preventing these errors requires a multifaceted approach involving healthcare professionals, technology, and system improvement. Strategies include maintaining good communication within the health team, reporting errors promptly, and ensuring a responsible approach from hospitals, staff, and healthcare providers before adverse reactions occur.

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