



# Medication Error

Medication error is the event which occurs due to the inappropriate use of medicine while providing medication therapy to the patients.



## Stages of medication error

Prescription

Transcription

Dispensing

Preparation

Administration

Monitoring



## Causes of medication error

There are various reasons behind the medication error committed by nurses which includes lack of theoretical knowledge, interruptions, inadequate training, distractions, pressure at workplace, lack of workforce, pressure of performance and many others.

The educational gap in the academics of nursing students leads to insufficient theoretical knowledge and commitment of medication errors. It has been reported that the novice nurses encounter problems during preparation and administration of drugs via intravenous route.



## Impacts of medication error

Nearly 50.5% of the medication errors have been committed by the nurses in emergency department, out of which 63.3% occurs during administration stage of the drugs. The medicines are considered as first line of treatment which could affect the patient if not used in a proper manner. This will lead to prolonged hospital stay, increased cost of care or even high mortality and morbidity rates.

The various impacts of the medication errors are as follows:

Diarrhoea



Rashes



Constipation



Headache



Nausea



Death



## Strategies for reducing medication error

Right's of safe medication

- Right patient
- Right route
- Right dose
- Right Time
- Right drug
- Right Documentation



Use of smart infusion pumps

A smart technology which contains computers and drug libraries to minimise the medication errors



Information technology

Maintenance of medication record using technology for remembering all the key points related to the medication therapy



Proper labelling

The use of proper labelling method for the dose, time and amount should be done to avoid confusion



Proper communication

The communication between the nursing staff during clinical handover should be clear to avoid medication errors



Proper calculations

The calculations of the dose should be proper so that the concentration of drug would not harm the patient's



Avoid distractions

The distractions and interruptions during medication therapy should be avoided to ensure safe medicine administration



## Reporting of medication errors

Medication errors are required to be reported in order to understand the human factors and learning from own mistakes. The importance of reporting medication error is to improve the practice and provision of safe care to the clients. It is the legal and moral obligation of the nurse to report the medication error. The failure to report a medication error is the violation of professional and ethical code of conduct for the nurses. Also, not reporting the medication error would result in failure in improvement of the practices. This would also help in setting an example in front of all other nursing staff and to enhance awareness among them for not committing medication errors.

This will improve the practice of other nursing staff as well.

## Method of reporting medication errors

