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Assessment of Medication Errors in a Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital RH: Medication Errors in Tertiary care hospital

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Medication errors are preventable events that may occur at any stage of medication use, from prescribing to administration. These errors can compromise patient safety and adversely affect therapeutic outcomes.

Objective: To identify, classify, and evaluate the characteristics, severity, and prevalence of medication errors in a tertiary care hospital, and to assess the contributory factors and the role of clinical pharmacists in detecting, reporting, and preventing such errors. **Methods:** A six-month prospective observational study was conducted in the medicine, surgery, and pediatrics departments of a tertiary care hospital. Medication errors were identified through direct observation, inpatient chart review, nursing note review, and ward rounds. Errors were documented using a modified medication error data collection and reporting form. **Results:** Among 250 patients assessed, 278 medication errors were identified. Most errors occurred in the medicine department (80.8%). Patient-related errors constituted the largest proportion (44.96%), followed by physician- (25.54%) and nursing-related (23.74%) errors. According to NCCMERP classification, 57.55% of errors caused no harm, while 35.25% resulted in temporary harm. The leading contributory factor was non-adherence to work procedures (42.08%). Of 278 pharmacist interventions, 202 (72.66%) were accepted. **Conclusion:** Medication errors are frequent and often under-detected. Strengthening reporting systems, improving patient education, and enhancing clinical pharmacist involvement can significantly reduce medication-related risks and improve therapeutic outcomes.

Keywords: Medication errors, prescribing, dispensing, administration, patient safety, clinical pharmacy, tertiary care hospital.

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