

Assessment 01: Enhancing Quality and Safety

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Enhancing Quality and Safety

Using and giving the right medications to patients is important when healthcare teams deal with several drugs simultaneously. Such mistakes add extra time before treatment, cause problems for the patient, or raise the healthcare bill (Tariq et al., 2024). This paper looks into issues with Medication Errors (MEs) during clinical care by analyzing their causes, the evidence that supports them, and the measures that can be used to increase safety. It makes it clear that good teamwork and communication among nurses strive to avoid errors in care. The roles of the main stakeholders in preventing medication problems are also considered, based on solid research.

Contributing Factors to Medication Errors in Healthcare

Many unintentional MEs in treating people with medicine can be life-threatening. A big problem is that healthcare providers have ineffective ways of sharing information. Because things happen so fast in healthcare settings, poor organization and divided medical records can lead to ordering too much medicine, skipping some medicines ordered, or giving the same medicine twice by mistake. In the United States, avoidable MEs result in approximately 44,000 to 98,000 inpatient fatalities each year. MEs are believed to generate between 37.6 and 50 billion dollars in extra medical expenses, disabilities, and decreased workforce efficiency (Tariq et al., 2024). In certain cases, if the history of medicines taken by a patient is not complete, medical staff might accidentally prescribe treatments that can interfere negatively or could be unnecessary. A further important factor is that today's medications are more complex. Many people who deal with long-term illnesses have to take a number of drugs. Managing them calls for an exact understanding of which drugs react, what side effects can occur, and how much each drug should be given. A lack of time, lots of work to do, and a shortage of staff can increase the possibility of missing out on vital details in medicating patients.

Human mental biases have a part in explaining the Buying Decision Process. If someone feels tired, has many tasks to do, or depends on their memory a lot, they might select the wrong medication, give the wrong medication amount, or choose an inappropriate way to give it.