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The factors of medication omission

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Medication administration drew out concerns on the matter which contains unpredictable risks resulting in patients' injury or death in Taiwan and other nations. The most common error is omitting medications for patients. Literatures pointed out that omitting medications occupied high rate in medication administration errors. Nonetheless, the majority of researches used questionnaires survey to figure out awareness and causes of medication errors but there are few by using chart audit to describe the medication omission. The purposes of this article are to discover the incidence, causes, and the associated factors of medication omissions in Taiwan. This research is a retrospective study through chart audits, which enrolled 300 inpatients from a medical center of Southern Taiwan in 2013. The results revealed that the medication omission rate is 6.2%; the duty shift affected the medication omission rate, 70 patients (50.4%) were found in the day shift, the average on each inpatient is 0.84 times of medication omission. The most common omitted medications are for gastroenteric system (21.8%), the least are for diuretics and anti-diabetic medications (5.2%). The most common route of omitted medication is via mouth (82.5%). In terms of frequency, "once-per-day" medication was the most common omitted medication, which accounts for 36.5%. The most common reason for omission is unknown (34.5%). Medication omission could be decreased in the future as designing in-service education, monitoring medication administration, and standard procedure for healthcare system. By implementing the correction of medication administration, patient safety can be ensured for better health outcomes.

Biography

Ya-Ling Lin has completed her Master's from the School of Nursing, Fooyin University and has worked at Kao-Mei Junior College of Health Care and Management. She has published five articles in domestic journals and has presented two papers at international conferences.

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