

# Nurses attitude to the safe administration of medicines during inpatient treatment

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## INTRODUCTION

The errors when administering medicines are one of the most common medical errors in a healthcare system. Globally, the cost associated with medicines errors has been estimated at \$42 billion annually. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), medicines administration errors can occur at any stage of administration. Therefore, it is important to know the factors that cause errors and also know the ways how to avoid this type of situations.

## METHODS

Data for this research were collected by a quantitative research-anonymous questionnaire survey conducted in 2020 from January to February. A research subjects were 86 part-time nursing students from Lithuanian University of Health Sciences facing the administration of medicaments in their work practices. The rate of responses was 85.1%. Means and standard deviations were calculated for the data expressed on the five-point (0-4) Likert scale. The Kruskal-Wallis H criterion was used to compare results between nurses with different experiences. Statistical significance  $p < 0.05$ .

## CONCLUSIONS

Environmental stress, excessive workload, unclear doctor's prescription sheet are the main factors influencing the administration of medicines. The study found that nurses with up to 2 years work experience indicated an incorrect calculation of the medicines as the cause of errors in the administration of medicines. The remaining causes of medicines administration errors were assessed similarly by nurses with shorter or longer experience.

## AIM

The aim of research is to determine the attitude of nurses towards the safe administration of medicines during inpatient treatment.

## RESULTS

The mean age of nurses was 32.27(9.40), the length of service was 9.13(9.04) years. The results of the study revealed that the most common errors were the wrong dose of medicines-average score 2.74(0.84). Nurses with up to 2 years of experience were significantly more likely to report an incorrect dose to the patient than nurses with more experience. According to the nurses, errors occur because of the environmental stress 3.74(0.54), high workload 3.69(0.49) and unclear prescription sheet 3.48(0.71). Nurses with up to 2 years work experience were significantly more likely to report incorrect medicines calculations. The remaining errors in the administration of medicines were assessed similarly by nurses with shorter and longer experiences ( $p > 0.05$ ).