

The Ethics and Legalities of Medication Error Disclosure

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Introduction

In this present scenario of the healthcare system, it is now a common error that comes into the way as medical mishap. It has been observed in the statistics that approximately one million errors in medication can be found in a year. Some of these medical errors don't cause much harm, but there are some errors which may cause serious drug issues. IOM or the Institute of Medicine has lodged the report of approximately 770000 death or injuries in a year that has been caused from a medication blunder or unfavorable drug mishaps (Moghaddasi, Sajadi, & Amanzadeh, 2016).

The quality of the provided care cannot always be measured by the medical mishaps. The errors related to the medication simply provides the suggestions that, as a mishap has already occurred, this type of misshapen can occur can take place any time of any journey of having the medication from the generation of the prescription till the end of the patient is getting that medication(Medication Errors, 2017). The primary intention of this study is to draw the line of knowledge about the disclosure or any non-disclosure about the errors related to medication according to the laws of Georgia. This study is a help to find out the probable strategies that can help to reduce or can prevent the medication mishaps in the further cases.

Disclosure or Non-disclosure

Medication calamity can be classified into four major groups of difficult drug reaction. These classifications are Preventable, Potential, Non-preventable and Ameliorable drug reactions. Potential adverse reactions of drugs are those potential errors related to medication that has been intercepted in a prior scenario of reaching to a patient(Medication Errors, 2017). The preventable type is that one which occurs as harm, after reaching to the patient. The Ameliorable are those ones, that occurs at the time of the experiencing the harm by the patients and it comes second to a medication mishap which cannot be avoided completely but can be mitigated. However, some of the effects caused by the drugs may turn out leave a negative impact on the health of patient. These adverse effects may or may not be preventable(Medication Errors, 2017).

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Since, the most of patients is unaware of the medical details. If the Nurse have mistakenly done a medication error while prescribing the medicines, it may or may not be preventable(Georgia Medical Errors, n.d.). If the reaction are naturally caused by the drug, that also should be mentioned by nurse beforehand. As mentioned strictly in the law, any error in the medication should be reported to two distinct organizations. These agencies are Partnership for Health and accountability program (PHA) and Department of Human Resources (DHA)(Computerized, 2017). Apart from that the report should also be submitted to a physician who is in the Authority. The medication error once identified should also be informed as both the legislation and the ethics support it. The role of the medical practitioner should also include the preventing the patients from any physical or mental injury. The information of the medication error should also be conveyed even if there are no signs of adverse effects in the health of the patient. The disclosure, however, opens a scope for learning for both the patient and medical practitioner. A disclosure at the very right moment will not also hamper the relationship between service provider and the service receiver. Being transparent with the patient will in turn improve the relationship between medical practitioner and the patient (Georgia Medical, n.d.).

Conclusion

The 25% of all the injuries caused by the wrong medication or the medication error are preventable. This fact has been identified by the institute of medication (IOM). However, to reduce the errors related to medical practices the IOM has suggested the use of e-prescription. E-prescription will help to reduce the errors in the medical practices as the program is installed an error detection mechanism with respect to the patient's history of medical records. Clinical decision support system can useful tool in this respect.

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