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ERRORS IN PRESCRIBING MEDICINES

Introductoin.

Prescribing is the process when a doctor authorises using medications or treatments for a patient and provides instructions about how and when those treatments should be used. Prescriptions are handwritten or computerised documents containing the patient's name and address, the date, the specific treatments prescribed and an authorising signature. They are a way for prescribers to communicate with pharmacists or others who in turn fill the prescription.

Aim. The purpose of this study is to determine some prescription errors and ways to avoid them.

Materials and methods. Research methods were the description, comparison, analysis.

Results and discussion.

Prescribers include doctors of various types and, in some countries, nurse practitioners, physicians assistants, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, clinical psychologists and clinical pharmacists also write prescriptions. Prescriptions can help people stay healthy or manage long-term conditions or emergency situations. However, as with other components of healthcare, prescriptions are also subject to error and can lead to unintended harm.

Errors in prescribing medicines include inaccuracy and incorrectness when choosing and ordering treatments, such as wrong doses or illegible prescriptions. There were conducted researches on reducing prescribing errors. The three most commonly researched approaches are, in order of frequency: computerized tools, training to improve prescribing and expanding professional roles to identify errors. Electronic prescribing and computerized decision support have been studied extensively but there are mixed findings. It was found out that computerized tools

can reduce prescribing errors but some suggest unintended negative consequences. Emerging evidence suggests that to be successful, human factors such as workflow features, tool design and context need to be considered.

Conclusion.

Medication errors are one of the most common patient safety issues and prescribing errors are one of the most common types of medication errors. Prescribing errors can take many forms, but commonly involve incorrect doses, illegible details or ordering inappropriate medications or drugs that may react with other medications already being taken.

Most people taking medication will benefit from it, but there is always the potential for errors which may cause harm. Prescribing errors are the largest source of medication errors. A systematic review of 16 studies about errors in handwritten prescriptions in hospitals found that the most common causes of error were mistakes due to inadequate knowledge of the drug or the patient, memory lapses, lack of training or experience, fatigue, stress, high workload and inadequate communication between healthcare professionals