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Interruptions in nursing work: Safety in the preparation and administration of the drug



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Objective: The purpose of the study was to investigate the relationship between the prevalence of errors in medication process and interruptions in the nursing work in medical clinic inpatient units at two public hospitals in the Federal district, Brazil.

Method: Observational, comparative and exploratory quantitative characters were used. Data were collected from July 2012 to May 2014. The sample consisted of health professionals involved in the medication process, is eight in the hospital-1 and 18 in the hospital-2.

Results: In hospital-1, 484 doses and a total of 865 medication errors were observed, of which 464 (56.3%) were directly related to work interruptions. In hospital-2, 415 doses and 583 medication errors were observed and these, 118 (24.4%) were associated with interruptions.

Conclusions: Work interruptions negatively influence the medication process, jeopardizing patient safety. Risk management measures should be implemented in order to reduce sources of interruptions in nursing work and reduce the chance of adverse medication events.

Biography

Cris Renata Grou Volpe has completed her Master's degree in Health Sciences from University of Sao Paulo and PhD in Nursing at the Graduate Nursing Program in University of Brasilia and is currently teaching at the University of Brasilia. She has experience in nursing with emphasis on fundamental nursing, medical and gerontology acting on the following topics: nursing in adult health and elderly, medicine, nursing in public health, semiotics and nursing process.

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