

# PHARMACOVIGILANCE & DRUG SAFETY SUMMIT

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## Assessment of medication administration process in a pediatric ward

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**Introduction:** Children are more susceptible to medication errors than adults. Medication administration process is the last stage in the medication treatment process and most of the errors occurred in this stage. Little research has been undertaken about medication errors in children in the Middle East countries.

**Aim of the study:** To evaluate how the pediatric nurses adhere to the medication administration policy and also to identify any medication preparation and administration errors.

**Methods:** This was a prospective direct observational study of medication administration process, from when the nurses are preparing patient medication until administration in the patient room in the pediatric ward (May to August 2014). Also, the observers were documented any medication administration errors occurred during the study period. Main outcomes were adherence rate of each step of preparation and administration process, number of errors and associated risk factors. All data collected was anonymous and was recorded on a data collection form which was designed specifically for this purpose.

**Results:** 14 pediatric nurses serving for 90 pediatric patients were observed. 456 drug administered doses were evaluated. 7 out of 16 steps were with lower adherence rate. Patient allergy information, dose calculation, drug expiry date were the steps in medication administration with lowest adherence rate. 63 medication preparation and administration errors were detected with error rate 13.8% of medication administration. No potentially life-threatening errors were witnessed. Few technical and administrative factors were identified.

**Conclusion:** Medication administration policy and procedure needs an urgent revision. Nurses knowledge and skills regarding to the medication administration process should be improved.

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