



Medication Safety: The challenges

Dr Ananya Chakraborty

Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre, Bangalore

Medication safety is an important health priority. The Division of Medication Error Prevention and Analysis (DMEPA), FDA defines medication error as "Any preventable event that may cause or lead to inappropriate medication use or patient harm while the medication is in the control of the health care professional, patient, or consumer. Such events may be related to professional practice, health care products, procedures, and systems, including prescribing; order communication; product labeling, packaging, and nomenclature; compounding; dispensing; distribution; administration; education; monitoring; and use." Medication errors affect an unacceptable number of people each year, some results in permanent disability or death. Medication safety aims to reduce the harm caused by medication errors and make sure that the right patient gets the right medicine, in the right dose, at the right time and by the right route. The need of the day is to develop systems that prevent medication errors and avoid foreseeable adverse drug experiences in order for medicines to be of more benefit than risk to the patient community. Pharmacists are best placed to oversee the quality of entire drug distribution chain and can undertake an important role in improving medication safety.