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Diploma in Pharmacy 2nd Year
Hospital & Clinical Pharmacy
Important Questions
Chapter 12 : Medication Errors and Drug Interaction

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Chapter 12
Medication Errors and Drug Interaction
IMPORTANT Questions

Q1. Describe the term Medication errors ? Write the types of Medications errors.

Ans.

Medication errors

- → A medication error is 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.

Types of Medication Errors

- **Prescribing Error :** This error occurs when due to mistake of prescriber (Doctor) , such as wrong drug , dosage , administration route etc.
- **Omission Error :** This error occurs when patient is not given a scheduled prescribed drug in health care control , like hospit al , nursing home etc.
- **Improper Dose Error :** This error occurs when a patient is given a higher or lower dose in comparison to prescribed dose.
- **Deteriorated (Expired) Drug error :** This error occurs when expired drug is administrated .
- **Prescription Filling(Dispensing) Error :** This error occurs when drugs are not dispensed properly according to the prescription.
- **Unauthorised Drug error :** This error occurs when patient is given a medication without consent(willing) of prescriber.
- **Wrong Time Error :** This error occurs when drug is not administered at appropriate time . (too soon or too late)
- **Wrong dosage Error**
- **Wrong drug preparation error**
- **Wrong administration technique error**
- **Monitoring Error**
- **Compliance Error :** This error occurs when patient do not complete a prescribed medication course.

Q2. Write the strategies to minimize medication errors.

Ans.

Strategies to Minimize Medication Error

- ✓ Separate prescription should be written for each medication
- ✓ Before signing the prescription the prescriber should recheck every parts of the prescription
- ✓ Abbreviation of drug names should be avoided
- ✓ The patient age should be mentioned in the prescription
- ✓ The pharmacist should read the prescription carefully and should follow every steps of dispensing of the drugs
- ✓ The pharmacist should check, if the doges are adequate or not , according to patient age
- ✓ The nurses Should administered the right drug to the right patient in right dose at right time.
- ✓ Multitask should be avoided during prescribing dispensing and administrating the drug.
- ✓ The health care professional should be stress free
- ✓ The workload of healthcare professionals should be in limit
- ✓ LASA drugs should be handled carefully
- ✓ Prescriber should write the prescription himself and should avoid dictation

Q3. Give a short note on LASA Drugs.

Ans.

LASA drugs

- → LASA" stands for "Look-Alike-Sound-Alike" drugs, which are medications that have similar names or packaging but differ in their active ingredients or dosages.
- → Look Alike Sound Alike (LASA) medications involve medications that are visually similar in physical appearance or packaging and names of medications that have spelling similarities and/or similar phonetics
- → This can lead to medication errors if healthcare providers or patients mistake one drug for another.
- → To prevent medication errors with LASA drugs, healthcare providers should always double-check the medication name and dosage before administering or prescribing it, and patients should always confirm with their healthcare provider or pharmacist that they have received the correct medication.
- → In addition, it's important to store medications in their original packaging and to keep a current list of all medications, including their names, dosages, and purposes.
- → Common Risk Factors Common risk factors associated with LASA medications includes:
    - Illegible handwriting
    - Incomplete knowledge of drug names
    - Newly available products
    - Similar packaging or labelling
    - Similar strengths, dosage forms, frequency of administration
    - Similar clinical use

Q4. Write about Tallman Lattering as per ISMP.

Ans.

Tallman lettering as per ISMP

- → The term " Tall Man Lettering " is discovered by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP).
- → Tall Man Lettering is a technique to differentiate (distinguish) the similar drug names and cause mistake during dispensing , handling administrating.
- → In this technique the main part of the drug names is written in Upper Case Lettering (In Capital letter) and the parts of the drug names similar to the other drug names are written in Lower Case (Small letter).
- → This technique highlights the distinctive part of the drug names and reduces the chances of mistake.

Examples Drug

Name with Tall Man Letters	Confused with
chloproMAZINE	chlorproPAMIDE
DOPamine	DOBUTamine
cycloSPORINE	cycloSERINE
vinBLAStine	vincristine

Q5. Write the Clinical Significance of drug interactions.

Ans.

Clinical significance of drug interactions

- **Decreased effectiveness :** When two drugs interact, the effectiveness of one or both medications may be reduced. This can result in a decreased therapeutic effect, which can lead to inadequate treatment of the underlying condition.
- **Increased toxicity :** Drug interactions can also result in an increased risk of adverse effects or toxicity. For example, when two drugs that are metabolized by the same enzyme are taken together, they may compete for the enzyme, leading to an accumulation of one or both drugs and an increased risk of toxicity.
- **Altered pharmacokinetics :** Drug interactions can also alter the pharmacokinetics (i.e., the way the drug is absorbed, distributed, metabolized, and eliminated) of one or both medications. This can result in changes in the blood levels of the drugs, which can affect their effectiveness and toxicity.
- **Potentiation :** Drug interactions can also result in a potentiation of the effects of one or both drugs. For example, when two drugs that have a similar effect on the central nervous system (such as two sedatives) are taken together, they may have a greater effect than when taken alone.