

Most perceived cause of medication error among nurses in adult general wards in Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah and its associated factors

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: As an important aspect of treating patients, the issue of medication safety is given priority worldwide. There is a growing importance towards medication safety in Malaysia as medication errors will have a harmful effect on patients. The exact cause of such medication errors may vary according to the perception of nurses. Therefore, it is important to obtain the nurse's perception on the causes of medication errors and the factors associated with them so that improvements can be implemented and thus reduce the number of medication errors. **Objective:** The main objective of this study is to find out the most perceived cause of medication errors according to nurses in adult general wards as well as its associated factors. **Materials and Methods:** The study was conducted in Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital (HTAR), a state hospital in Selangor, using the cross-sectional method with a structured questionnaire from April 2021 to January 2022. **Results:** A total of 294 respondents participated in this study where most of the respondents were females. This study found that the most perceived cause of medication error according to nurses at HTAR was when the physician's writing on the doctor's order form is difficult to read or illegible (46.6%). In addition, it was found that the factors such as ward/work department, the length of the shift in a day, participation in medication safety training as well as the nurse's knowledge on medication errors have a significant relationship with the most perceived cause of medication errors. **Conclusion:** There are various causes that give rise to medication errors according to the nurses. The results of this study can help the top management at the study site as well as policy makers in the Ministry of Health to formulate measures to reduce medication errors among all healthcare professionals.