

BOOSTING MEDICATION SAFETY IN INTENSIVE CARE UNITS: APPLICATION OF A TAILORED SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Medication errors are more frequent and potentially more harmful in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) due to patient complexity, the use of high-risk drugs, and the need for rapid clinical decision-making. The Spanish Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) has created a specialized self-assessment tool for ICUs to evaluate medication safety.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Our hospital has chosen to implement the ISMP tool in the ICU to identify potential risks and recommend strategies for improvement. The objective was to develop a specific action plan aimed at enhancing safety and reducing the likelihood of medication-related errors.

MATERIAL AND METHODS



TOOLS

Spanish Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Self-Assessment for ICUs.



Multidisciplinary Task Force (Physicians, Pharmacists, Nurses, Quality Coordinator)

The team completed the assessment (Sept 2023) and held six review meetings (2024) to analyze scores below 50%

RESULTS

The Diagnosis: Critical Gaps Detected

Our overall safety score was *47.75%* (benchmark: 55%).

Lowest Scoring Areas:

Area	Score
Patient and medication information	34.44%
Pharmacist staffing	29.05%
Staff competency and training	38.46%
Quality and risk management programs	26.92%

The Treatment: A Multidisciplinary Action Plan

To patch these holes in our defense, we are implementing:

- Protocols:** New medication reconciliation and stockout management.
- Staffing:** Recruiting pharmacists specifically for smart infusion pump teams.
- Training:** Safety-focused onboarding and competency programs.
- Strategy:** Integrating safety goals into the ICU strategic plan.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- ❖ The self-assessment questionnaire is an important tool for identifying gaps in medication safety within intensive care units.
- ❖ The interventions identified through this process can be implemented across other hospital services, thereby enhancing the culture of safety and quality of care in critical environments

References: Cuestionario de autoevaluación de la seguridad de los SMI [Internet]. [citado 6 de septiembre de 2025]. Disponible en: <http://apps.ismp-espana.org/smi/>

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