



IMPORTANCE OF MEDICATION ERRORS IN THE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

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Objective

To analyze the importance of the errors contained in the Electronic Health Record EHR relating to patients' usual medication.

Materials and Methods

- The information about medication contained in the EHR-D was analyzed including all patients with surgical admission between February and November, 2010.
- The errors taken into account were: medicine omitted (error by default), medicine added (error by excess) or medicine with incorrect dose/regimen.
- Important errors were considered the ones that affected to target medicines, that were:
 - a) medicines with specific management in surgical patients.
 - b) medicines that have to be reconciled in the first 24h of the admission in hospital.
- The proportion of patients with some errors was determined and the average number of errors, for both, general and important errors.

Results

167 patients were included, whose EHR-D were found registered an average of 7.8 (CI95% 7.1-8.5) medicines.

The 79.6% (N=133) of the EHR-D contained some errors, being found an average of 4.2 (CI95% 3.6-4.7) errors/patient.

The distribution by type of error was: 2.8 (CI95% 2.3-3.3) errors by excess, 0.4 (CI95% 0.3-0.6) errors by default and 1.0 (CI95% 0.8-1.2) errors of incorrect dose/regimen medication.

The importance of errors affected to the 62.9% (N=105) of the histories, with an average of 2.3 (CI95% 2.0-2.5) errors/patient, being 1.2 (CI95% 1.0-1.5) by excess, 0.3 (CI95% 0.2-0.4) by default and 1.2 (CI95% 1.0-1.5) by incorrect dose/regimen medication.

Discussion

A high proportion of the information about the patients' medication from the Electronic Health Record contains some error.

The information of the EHR-D should be verified before being used to carry out the reconciliation at the moment of the admission in hospital.

Conclusions

Eight out of ten EHR-D contain some error in their registrations of medication, and in six out of ten these errors are considered to be important.

Half of the errors found are important ones.