## Cost Analysis of Expenses Resulting From Medication Errors

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### Total Cost For The Period
- Cost of SMI product(s) to reduce/solve problem ($2.00-$4.00 per surgical procedure): $
- Potential cost savings per year: $

### Associated Websites
- [www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org)
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### Standards For Medication Labeling

What you need to know about JCAHO, CMS and AORN regulations and standards... and how to analyze the real cost of those injuries.

“11.4% of sentinel events are medication errors.”

Published as an industry service by Sandel Medical Industries, LLC
**Regulations**

**Standard MM.4.30** Medications are appropriately labeled.

Element of Performance: Any time one or more medications are prepared, but are not administered immediately, the medication container must be appropriately labeled.

**Standard MM.4.40** Medications are dispensed safely.

Element of Performance: Dispensing adheres to law, regulation, licensure and professional standards of practice.

**AORN**

**AORN’s Guidance Statement** Regarding safe medication practices in the perioperative setting: “label all medications (medicine cups, syringes, basins) on the sterile field even if there is only one.”

**Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoPs)** Hospitals must include preventive measures (in their Quality Assurance Performance Improvement program) that foster patient safety, such as reducing medical errors. CFR 482.21(c)

**Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoPs)** All drugs and biologicals must be administered by, or under supervision of, nursing or other personnel in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations, including applicable licensing requirement – CFR 482.12(c) CFR 482.23

**JCAHO**

**Facts You Should Know**

11.4% of sentinel events are medication errors.  
One of the major causes of medication errors is illegible or confusing handwriting.  
50% of medication errors reported to the FDA have naming, labeling and/or packaging issues associated with them. 60% of medication errors result in serious injury. There is a 10% overall mortality rate.  
Drug errors not only increase costs, but also significantly prolong hospital stays and increase the risk of death almost two-fold.  
Medication errors are one of the most common reasons for disciplining RNs.  
The single leading type of error is medication errors. Estimates range from 4% to 20% of all hospitalized patients encounter medication errors.  
Medication related errors could increase U.S. hospital costs by $2,000,000,000 (2 billion dollars).

**Benefits of Properly Labeling All Solutions and Medications**

- Reduce the possibility of wrong medication administration.  
- Improve communication between the entire O.R. team.  
- Reduce the risk of litigation from adverse medication events.  
- Improve patient safety.

**Footnotes**

1 JCAHO 2004 Standards.  
3 Medicare Conditions of Participation for Hospitals, CFR 482.  
4 JCAHO Sentinel Events Statistics, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) 6/24/03.  
5 JCAHO Sentinel Events Statistics, (JCAHO) 9/02.  
8 Texas Board of Nurse Examiners March 2004.  
10 To Err is Human, Building a Safer Health System, November 1999, Institute of Medicine.
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Period Covered:

Department Covered:
O.R. Other Facility-wide

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Costs Total Cost

- Total Cost For The Period
- Cost of SMI product(s) to reduce/solve problem ($2.00-$4.00 per surgical procedure)

Potential cost savings per year:

Nurse inspired innovative product(s) to solve this issue are available from Sandel Medical Industries, LLC.

Correct Medication Labeling System ™ Sandel Safety Marker ™ SMI Medication Labels, Med Cup Flags, SMI Syringe Labels, SMI “No Spill” Med Cups

Prepared by:

Make safety a line item in your budget.

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Title Date

Safety means NEVER having to say you’re sorry.™

SMI is the exclusive sponsor of AORN’s Patient Safety First Initiative

Standards For Medication Labeling

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