“11.4% of sentinel events are medication errors.”

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

*The term Hospital also refers to all types of medical facilities.*
11.4% of sentinel events are medication errors. 6

One of the major causes of medication errors is illegible or confusing handwriting. 7

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. 8

Drug errors not only increase costs, but also significantly prolong hospital stays and increase the risk of death almost two-fold. 9

Medication errors are one of the most common reasons for disciplining RNs. 10

The single leading type of error is medication errors. Estimates range from 4% to 20% of all hospitalized patients encounter medication errors. 11

Medication related errors could increase U.S. hospital costs by $2,000,000,000 (2 billion dollars). 12

Facts You Should Know

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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 JCAHO Sentinel Events Statistics, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) 6/24/03.
4 JCAHO Sentinel Events Statistics, (JCAHO) 9/02.
7 Texas Board of Nurse Examiners March 2001.
10 To Err is Human, Building a Safer Health System, November 1999, Institute of Medicine.
## Cost Analysis of Expenses Resulting From Medication Errors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period Covered</th>
<th>Department Covered</th>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th># of Claims Reviewed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C.R.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Facility-wide</td>
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</table>

**Costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Drug Costs in Treating Patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Increase in Hospital Stay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Staff Time in Performing Root Cause Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Increase in Facility's Insurance Premium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Increase in Liability Reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Attorney Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cost of Settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Other:</td>
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<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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

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**Potential Cost Savings**

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

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**Make safety a line item in your budget.**
Associated Websites

www.jcaho.org  Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations  Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (regulations)
www.aorn.org  Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses
www.iom.org  Institute of Medicine
www.ashrm.gov  American Society for Healthcare Risk Managers
http://jama.ama-assn.org  The Journal of the American Medical Association

Partial List of Facilities Using Our Products

Kaiser Foundation Hospital  South San Francisco, CA
Lutheran General Hospital  Chicago, IL
St. Elizabeth Medical Center  Edgewood, KY
LSU Medical Center-University Hospital  Shreveport, LA
Boston Medical Center  Boston, MA
Massachusetts General Hospital  Boston, MA

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