

# PHARM D STUDENTS' GRADUATION RESEARCH PROJECTS 2019/2020

## Trends of Medication Errors Reporting in the Saudi Ministry of Health Hospitals

**Background:** Medication errors are a serious concern to all healthcare institutions. When these occur, they can result in a wide spectrum of consequences ranging from, but not limited, to financial burdens, credential losses and in some occasions loss of patients' lives.

**Aims:** This study aimed to quantify and summarize medication errors in Saudi Arabia and identify reporting trends as there are currently a few strategies to address this issue at a national level.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was performed in which medication error reports filed with the Saudi Ministry of Health using the incident reporting program 2018–2019 were collected and descriptive analyses were performed.

**Results:** A total of 13388 reports were assessed. The majority of medication errors were observed in the patient's age range of 30–40 years. The most frequent medication error was prescribing error, accounting for 59%, followed by transcribing errors accounting for 20% of total reported errors. Of the dosage forms associated with medication errors oral dosage forms were the most, accounting for 55 %. As for the category of medication errors as dictated by the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention, category B, which is defined as an error that has occurred but never reached the patient, was the most frequent error category seen, accounting for 52%. With respect to healthcare profession, most of the errors were made by physicians (78%) while most those errors were detected by pharmacist (86%).

**Conclusions:** Medication errors are highly prevalent in Saudi Arabia and are primarily related to prescribing. Pharmacists play a key role in detecting most of these errors. Data from the present study can be used to update our current healthcare policies and practices.

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## OBSERVATIONAL RESEARCH

