

Association of Patient Characteristics and Medication Errors in the Ambulatory Setting: Use of a Classification Tool

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For the past four years our academic health center has offered a clinical pharmacy consultation service for patients having problems with their medications. We have developed a classification tool which identifies high risk patient characteristics, categorizes medical errors by type and severity, and counts the number of pharmacist interventions. Using this tool, the clinical pharmacist, in seeing 100 patients was able to identify over 300 errors, one-third of which resulted in adverse outcomes. The vast majority of errors were errors in adherence, highlighting the importance of a clinical pharmacist in outpatient practice.

This initiative addresses Goal #2 of the ASHP 2015 Initiative.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TOOLS

- [Clinical Pharmacy Intervention Form](#) (PDF)

These "2015 Success Stories" highlight successes in implementing one of the ASHP [2015 Objectives](#). Tools and resources are also provided for each success story. For more information, email 2015@ashp.org or send your "Success Story" accompanied by a [permission form](#) (PDF).