

## Pharmacy Review of Discharge Prescription Medications for Pediatric Patients

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Improving medication safety is one initiative always on the minds of healthcare providers, especially with regard to the pediatric population. Although medication errors may occur at any stage of a patient's hospital stay, they can be minimized with careful monitoring by the healthcare team. Upon discharge, it is vital that the medications used on an out-patient basis are accurate, since the patient may be at risk if an error is made with their discharge prescriptions.

The pediatric clinical pharmacists reviewed discharge medications for pediatric patients over a five month period. The review includes comparing discharge prescriptions to the patient's current hospital medications, age,

weight, allergies, contraindications, appropriate dosage form, special compounding issues, and overall accuracy.

A total of 388 discharges including 1076 prescriptions were reviewed; 26 problematic prescriptions were found. 12 of these orders had the potential for an adverse drug event serious enough to require a visit to the primary physician or emergency room. Although the number of errors was small, the possibility of harm was not. Therefore, the pharmacist's review and corrective action of these prescriptions support an improved outcome with regard to medication usage.

<sup>1</sup>Chest 2001; 119:132s-175s

*This initiative addresses Goal #4 of the ASHP 2015 Initiative.*

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