

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Medication Administered to Incorrect Client

Summary:

A client received three oral medications, including an opioid intended for another client. The client required transfer to an Intensive Care Unit for continuous monitoring.

Keywords: medication, incorrect, narcotic

This review is based on a single event

Findings of the Review:

Multiple competing demands contributed to interference when completing 'Six Rights' of Medication Administration.

Staff were not aware that the client for whom the medications were intended was on a leave of absence, as this was not documented on the Medication Administration Record (MAR).

The medications were prepared and administered to the unintended client in the next bed.

System Learning:

Establish procedures for medication administration processes which minimize interruptions.

Instruct nursing staff to review the 'Six Rights' of Medication Administration.

Establish standardized process to flag the medication administration record (MAR) to alert staff that the client is away from the facility (on a leave of absence).

Date of Posting: June 2018