



Practice sting 2022-12

Practice sting Medication on the bedside table

Placing medication on a patient's bedside table can lead to discomfort and inappropriate medication use for the patient as shown by the reports below.

Notifications

Notification 1

A patient tells the nurse in the morning that she had a lot of pain during the night. The nurse is surprised because the patient is well adjusted to pain medication. During the conversation, the nurse sees the medication from the previous evening on the bedside table, including paracetamol. The medication has been signed off, although the patient is not self-sufficient enough to take the medication.

Notification 2

A patient must have an enema. The nurse puts the enema ready for use on the bedside table. The patient is thirsty and thinks it is a bottle of drink. He opens it himself and drinks it.

Recommendations

For the committee dealing with medication safety

- Bring these messages to the attention of every nursing ward at your healthcare facility.
- In the work meetings of the departments, ask to discuss the following:
 - Do we recognize these incidents?
 - Can these incidents also occur in our department?
 - Have we already taken measures to prevent this kind of incidents? If so, what do we think of these measures?
 - Can we agree on how to prevent these incidents from occurring in our department?
 - How are we going to evaluate the agreements?
 - How are we going to monitor that these incidents no longer occur in our department?