



Practice sting 2023-12

Practice sting Administering medicines using the administration list

This Practice sting is particularly interesting for healthcare professionals who administer medicines

VMI regularly receives notifications related to incorrect dosing. The notification hereafter shows that it is important that medicines are administered as indicated on the administration list.

Notification

A woman is discharged from the hospital on Friday morning. Over the course of the weekend she feels very nauseous and vomits a lot. On Sunday she goes to the GP's emergency. The involved GP cannot find an explanation for the complaints and advises waiting. On Monday, her daughter calls the treating medical consultant and asks whether the dosage of the fentanyl patch is correct. This morning, the home care worker stuck 4 fentanyl patches of 12 µg/hour on her mother, while she only used one patch of 12 µg/hour before admission to the hospital.

Analysis

After investigation, it appears that on the day of discharge a nurse applied a fentanyl patch 50 µg/hour, while the strength of the patch on the electronic administration list of the hospital was 12 µg/hour. After seeing the fentanyl patch 50 µg/hour, the home care worker applied four patches of 12 µg/hour (almost 50 µg/hour). She did not look closely at the administration list that the pharmacy provided. The home care worker has also not established a relationship between the patient's complaints and the high strength of the applied fentanyl patch. Finally, the home care worker did not wonder why the pharmacy did not supply 50 µg/hour patches on Friday afternoon.

Recommendations

For healthcare professionals who administer medication

- Always administer medication using the administration list.
- In case of doubt or ambiguity in the information on the administration list, contact the prescriber or pharmacist.
- If a patient has complaints, consider whether this could be a side effect of a medicine. Report this suspicion to the prescriber or pharmacist.