



## Practice sting 2024-06

### Practice sting Check during intravenous administration

**This practice sting is particularly interesting for hospitals**

Administering medication intravenously is risky. VMI regularly receives notifications from hospitals about errors during intravenous administration. These errors can lead to dangerous situations. The next notification concerns intravenous administration of the wrong drug.

#### Notification

A newborn, admitted due to an infection, is treated with intravenous amoxicillin through a drip. After flushing with NaCl 0.9%, the nurse takes the syringe with sucrose drink instead of the syringe with amoxicillin. The sucrose was prepared to administer orally in case of restlessness or pain. The nurse administers sucrose intravenously to the newborn.

#### Analysis

When administered intravenously, the bioavailability of the administered drug is immediately maximal. Intravenous administration of the wrong drug or dose can therefore have immediate and serious consequences. In this notification, oral sucrose was administered intravenously. The nurse took the wrong syringe. She did not notice this because the syringe fit the infusion system. Subsequently, the check by a colleague did not take place (properly).

#### Recommendations

##### **For the hospital committee that deals with medication safety**

Bring the above notification to the attention of the pharmacy and nursing departments. Ask to discuss the following:

- As a precautionary measure, is the hospital using only oral syringes that are not compatible with intravenous administration systems?
- What other measures have been taken in the hospital to prevent non-intravenous dosage forms from being administered intravenously?
- What measures have been taken to ensure that the administered drug is always checked by a second healthcare professional? Do these measures work adequately? If not, what additional measures are necessary?
- Are there differences between the various nursing departments with regard to the precautions?
- Are the agreements made monitored and evaluated?