

ERRORS ASSOCIATED WITH A COMPUTERIZED PHYSICIAN ORDER ENTRY SYSTEM: INCORRECT NON-DAILY MEDICINES REQUESTS

Domínguez Menéndez JA, Vallinas Hidalgo S, Pardo Santos NM, Balzola Regout B, Mendarte Barrenetxea LM, Yurrebaso Ibarreche MJ. Basurto University Hospital, Bilbao, Spain

BACKGROUND

Computerized physician order entry (CPOE) systems prevent medicines being requested without a prescription. However potential errors still occur due to incorrect treatment requests.

OBJECTIVE

To quantify and analyse potential medicines errors associated with incorrect nurse requests for medicine scheduled less often than every day.

METHODS

Prospective observational study carried out over three months in units using CPOE and unit-dose medicines dispensing systems. Data about non-daily medicines schedules (every 48 or 72 h, weekly...) requested by nurses were collected.

RESULTS

45 medicines requests were checked during this period.

Classified :

By medicine	By schedule
14 weekly	15 epoetin alfa
7 every 48 h	4 weekly alendronate
7 biweekly	4 intramuscular risperidone
5 single dose	4 intramuscular paliperidone
4 Mo-We-Fri	18 others
8 others	

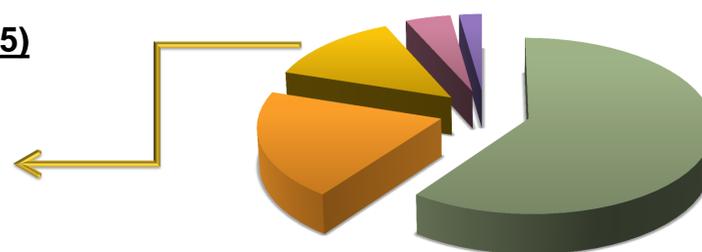
By cause

- not in unit dose due to stability
- start of treatment
- errors in the request
- dispensing errors
- missed medicine

6 incorrect request (out of 45)

- Weekly epoetin alfa
- Weekly alendronate
- Prednisone every 48 h
- Mercaptopurine every 48 h
- Buprenorphine every 72 h

- ✓ Only one of these errors occurred in medicines **not dispensed in a unit dose (1 of 27 requests)**, and the others **in unit-dose** dispensed medicines (**5 of 18 requests**).
- ✓ **All** the incorrect requests had been **prescribed correctly**.



CONCLUSIONS

CPOES reduces potential errors associated with medicines, such as requests for medicines that have not been prescribed. However, errors associated with medicines requests are still happening. These incorrect requests occur despite a correct prescription, therefore an exhaustive revision of the system for requesting non-daily medicines is necessary to prevent this source errors.