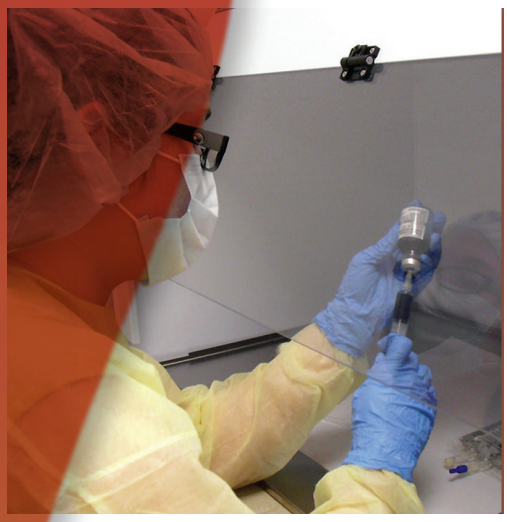

CHAPTER 15
Medication Safety

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CONTENTS

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this chapter, you will be able to

- List 10 different types or categories of medication errors.
- Identify causes or factors that contribute to medication errors.
- List five high-alert medications.
- Describe 10 medication error prevention strategies.
- Define culture of safety.
- Describe the possible consequences of actual medication errors.
- Explain the steps to be taken when an error has been identified.
- Identify the four steps in the PDSA cycle.

KEY TERMS

Compliance error	An error occurring when patients do not follow their dosing regimen.
Culture of safety	An environment or philosophy that encourages reporting of errors without the fear of punishment.
Deteriorated drug error	Use of an expired medication or one whose properties have been compromised.
Failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA)	A process that evaluates where errors might occur and estimates their potential impact.
High-alert medications	Medications that have a high risk of causing patient harm when used in error.
Improper dose error	A dose that is greater than or less than the prescriber's order.
Medication error	An error occurring during the medication-use process.
Medication misadventure	A general term to describe drug-related incidents.
Medication safety	Freedom from accidental or preventable injury related to the medication-use process.
Monitoring error	Failure to review a medication order or associated clinical laboratory values.
Omission error	A scheduled dose that is omitted entirely.
Patient safety	Freedom from accidental or preventable injury produced by medical care.
Plan, do, study, act (PDSA)	A method of testing small changes quickly, studying the outcomes, and making adjustments to improve a process.
Prescribing error	Error occurring during the prescribing process.
Root cause analysis (RCA)	A process for retrospectively analyzing an error.
Stop, think, act, review (STAR)	A safety strategy to refocus attention to detail.
Unauthorized drug error	An error occurring when a drug given to or taken by a patient was not ordered by an authorized prescriber.
Wrong administration technique error	An error occurring when a medication is given or taken by the wrong route or the use of an improper procedure.
Wrong dosage form error	Use of the incorrect medication dosage form.
Wrong time error	Administration of a medication dose outside of an established scheduled time.