

MEDICATION ERRORS IN CHEMOTHERAPY





WHAT ARE MEDICATION ERRORS

A medication error is defined as error in the

- ordering
- dispensing
- applicating
- or monitoring

of a drug.1

HOW OFTEN DO MEDICATION ERRORS OCCUR







19% of children

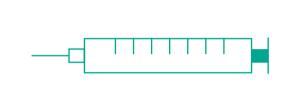
taking chemotherapy drugs in outpatient clinics or at home were given the wrong dose or experienced other medication mistakes.2

OCCURENCE OF MEDICATION ERRORS^{3, 4}



42-91%

Prescription



4 - 8%

Preparation



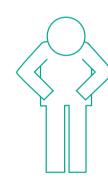
Application errors

CONSEQUENCES FOR THE PATIENT^{2, 3}



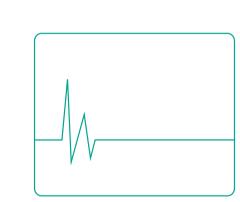
Temporary injury

(e.g. abdominal pain, neuropathy, hypertension)



Permanent damage

(diseases of the heart, lungs or nerves; infertility)



Death

(e.g. due to excessive bone marrow suppression)

According to one study, the vast majority of errors (436 out of 449) were intercepted before medication reached the patients. But:

13.4%

of avoided errors would have resulted in temporary injury.

2.6%

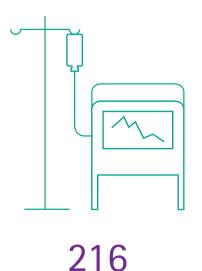
would have resulted in permanent damage.

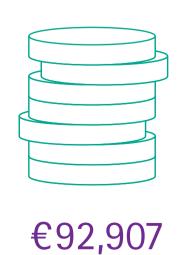
2.6%

would have compromised the vital prognosis of the patient.

Overall, 13 medication errors reached the patient without causing damage, although two patients required enhanced monitoring.

CONSEQUENCES FOR THE HOSPITAL³





estimated total

Another study showed that medication errors lead to 216 additional days of hospitalisation and cost an estimated total of €92,907 per year.

additional days

IN GENERAL

Of all the drugs implicated in medication errors, antineoplastic drugs are the most commonly involved (52%).5