

**Creative Methods to Discuss Practice Issues:
Medication Errors in the Perioperative Setting
Session #7256**

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Goal:

Explore issues related to prevention of medical errors in the perioperative setting.

Objectives

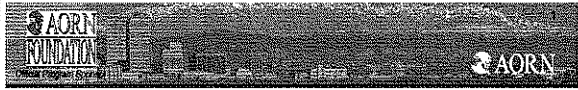
1. Discuss three issues related to medication error occurrence in the perioperative arena.

Presenter:

Lorraine Butler, RN, BSN, MSA, CNOR

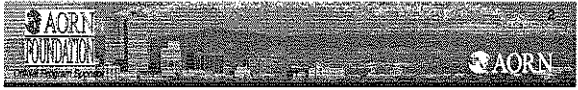
Medication Errors in the Perioperative Setting

Presented by
Lorraine Butler, RN, BSN, MSA, CNOR



Objective

- Discuss three issues related to medication error occurrence in the perioperative setting.



Medication Errors

Medication errors injure about 1.3 million people annually.

- A seminal study by the Institute of Medicine in 1999 found that 7,000 people die each year from medication errors.
- That same report estimated that up to 98,000 Americans die each year from all medical errors.
- Medication errors are preventable.
- Even one death is too many.



Medication Errors

A survey of 1,600 conducted by the Institute of Safe Medication Practices found that only 41 percent of hospitals always label medication and solutions used in operating settings.

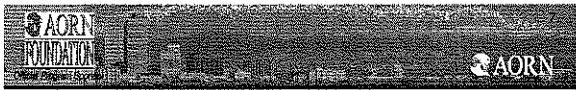
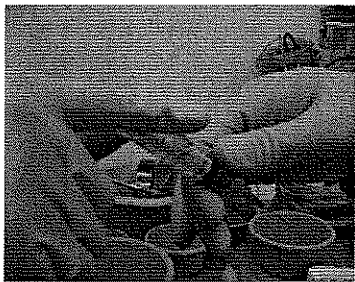




Medication Errors

An alarming 18 percent of the hospitals don't label containers at all, and another 42 percent apply labels inconsistently.



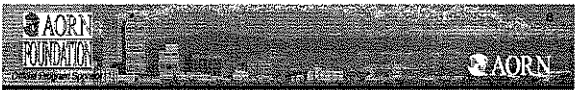


Medication Errors

Consumers need to take charge
of their health care.

It is not the people; it's the process.

Stop, take time out, and review
your processes.



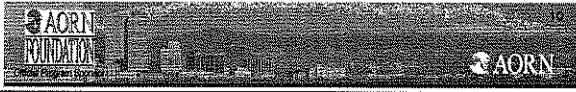
Medication Errors

“Labeling all medications and solutions
in the operating room is a fundamental
step in making surgical care safer,” said
Dennis S. O’Leary, MD, president of the
Joint Commission on Accreditation of
Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).



Medication Errors

Beginning in 2006, JCAHO will require hospitals and other facilities in which surgical and other invasive procedures are performed to label all medications, medication containers (eg, syringes, medicine cups, basins), or other solutions on and off the sterile field.





Bibliography/Suggested Readings

Medication Errors

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8. "Medication station: tips to reduce medication errors in the OR," *Joint Commission Perspectives on Patient Safety* 49(10) (October 2004), 7, 9.