



Patient sees GP

Patient is prescribed medication. Prescribing decision is based on :
1) GP own information
2) Hospital recommendation
3) Patient symptoms/requests

Prescription taken to pharmacy

Medication dispensed

Patient takes medication

Patient improves/stabilises

Patient requests repeat medication

Prescribing reviewed at least every 6th request

Patient feels worse

Patient decides not to take medication. (remove from system)

GP refers to hospital outpatients

Recommendation made to GP

Medication assimilated into patient record at GP Practice

Discharge medication communicated to GP

Scheduled or unscheduled GP admission

Existing medication established and prescribed

Medication reviewed. Existing removed. New added

Medication reviewed based on clinical progress

Some/all/other medication selected for discharge

Discharge medication dispensed and given to patient

Emergency admission

Unintentional discrepancies in medication prescribed on admission = 58-62% patients[34-35]69-70% items[36-37]

In patient prescribing error rate = 2.9-18.7% items [38-43] 14% patients [44]

Unintentional discrepancies in discharge medication received by patients = 11%-27% items [38,45]. Unintentional discrepancies in repeat medication subsequently received from GP = 43-60% items [36-37,45-46], 57% patients [47]

GP Prescribing error rate 7.46% items[21]:
No directions 25%
Prescribing something not needed 18%
Directions incomplete 11%
Over supply 11%
Strength missing 9%
Quantity missing 8%
No Signature 5%
Other 13%

2.9% prescriptions[22] – 5.2% items[23] not 'cashed' at pharmacy

Dispensing error rate 3.3% items[24]
1.6% labelling errors
1.7% content errors
Clinical Severity:
67: minor
32% moderate
1% severe

Patient non-adherence = 30-50% patients[18-19]

Medication ineffective = 10-50% (NNT medication 2-10)
Drug related admissions = 6.5%-7.5% admissions[25-27]
69% of these are preventable

Medication not reviewed in 15 months = 72% [28]

Outpatient error rate = 77.4% items [29]

Medication being taken not on GP record = 5% items[30]
Dosage not on record = 13% consultations[31]

58-67% of GPs not satisfied with information received from the hospital on patients' discharge therapy[32-33]