Policy Perspective

Prescription for medication safety

Electronic prescribing systems could ensure safety and quality of care for patients as they move into and out of acute care settings.

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E
lectronically prescribe systems could ensure safety and quality of care for patients as they move into and out of acute care settings. Medication issues account for about 2-3% of hospital admissions every year. These result in hospital stays that are either avoidable altogether, or longer than they need have been. This rate has been stubbornly consistent over three decades resulting in an annual cost of $1.2 billion. A literature review of the research on medication safety completed for the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care in August 2013 makes timely reading as we prepare to begin the final year of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Patients are at particularly high risk of medication related misadventure as they move in and out of acute care settings. High risk groups include:
Concise, independent and evidence-based recommendations for patient management. eTG complete features the latest versions of over 3000 Therapeutic Guidelines topics, including the current endorsed therapeutic guidelines on antibiotic usage.¹

Available for use via intranet, individual workstations and mobile devices.

¹Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (September 2011), National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, ACSQHC, Sydney.

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