

Analyzing Healthcare Professionals' Perception on Medication Administration Time and Its Effects on Patient Well-Being

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Background/ Purpose:

The study will be conducted at the Los Angeles General Medical Center focusing on the relationship between timing of medication administration and patient well-being. We wanted to compare how physicians, nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy and medical students, pharmacy and medical residents respond to the nighttime medication administration.

Methods:

Our research is based on a survey with questions to healthcare professionals. The survey was conducted via email with a total of 11 questions, then we analyzed the data from the collected responses. Questions were answered in scale format with the options being “always, sometimes, often, rarely, never”.

Results:

We received 10 responses to our survey from 4 pharmacists, 3 pharmacy residents, 2 pharmacy students, and a nurse. Medication administration timing was “always” considered. The timing of medication administration regarding the medication class was considered “often.” Healthcare providers “rarely” receive suggestions from other healthcare providers regarding timing of medication administration. The appropriateness of nighttime administration was “always” considered regarding its impact on the patient’s sleep. Re-timing a medication was “often” considered. The influence of the drug class was “always” considered due to its efficacy on the treatment. The timing of a medication administration could contribute to cases of severe delirium “sometimes,” demonstrating the limited effects of delirium. The patient's circadian rhythm was “sometimes” looked at, indicating patient preference was not considered. The performance of the patient’s preferred time for medication administration was “never” considered and the patient's sleep disturbance was considered “rarely”. Overall, results show that healthcare providers adjust medication administration times to ensure the patient’s well-being.

Conclusion:

Our study demonstrates that healthcare professionals take into consideration medication administration time. Deciding on the administration timing is a collaborative effort between healthcare providers, who often have to re-evaluate the timing, while not taking into consideration the patient’s preference of administration time.