

# Errors in Prescription writing- an Observational Study

Dr. Shabnam Fatema Enam

Registrar

Department of Internal Medicine

Enam Medical College & Hospital

# Introduction

- Prescription is not a mere piece of paper rather a lasting informer on behalf of the prescriber to the patient and other health care professionals.
- So accuracy of writing prescription has an impact in overall management protocol.

- Different studies throughout the world show considerable amount of errors in writing prescriptions.
- Excluding errors in decision making, the remaining errors are mainly due to order ambiguity, writing illegibility etc.
- To prevent error, standards has been set to write the prescription in a proper way.

# Aim of the Study

- This study has been done with an aim to identify the types of error or missing points in hand written prescriptions comparing to BNF 61 standards of prescription writing.

# Materials and Methods

- This retrospective observational study was done in Enam Medical College & Hospital, Savar, Dhaka in January 2013.
- Seventy prescriptions from outpatient department were collected randomly.
- Standard was set according to the points in BNF 61.

- Results were accumulated in percentage manually.
- Ethical clearance was obtained from the ethical committee of Enam Medical College and Hospital.

# Results

Present in all hand written prescription

- Patients name
- Date of issue of prescription
- Prescribers name
- Prescribers address
- Prescribers phone number

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Mentioned (%)</b>
<b>Address of patient:</b>	
Properly mentioned	1.43
Not Properly mentioned	44.28
Not mentioned	54.28
<b>Age of Patient</b>	92.85
<b>Date of birth in Children &lt;12years</b>	0
<b>Signature of prescriber in ink</b>	95.71



<b>Variables</b>	<b>Mentioned (%)</b>
Drug name clearly	87.14
Drug preparation clearly	90
Dose of drug	80
Dose unit properly	54.28
Frequency of intake (including on required drugs)	92.86
Starting date	95.71
Indication of drug	82.86

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Mentioned (%)</b>
Proper direction of intake ( relation with meal, duration, follow up )	64.28
Quantity to be supplied	0
Allergy box	0
Weight of patient ( Paediatrics, heparin, Under/overweight etc)	65

# Discussion

- Prescription is a vital part in our daily medical practice so it should be simple ,clear ,understandable and technically correct.
- Overall illegibility of hand written prescription is unacceptably high and raises concerns regarding possible harm due to prescribing error.

# Conclusion

- As the study population was smaller, research involving larger population would be necessary.
- Further study regarding prescribing error related harm is also recommended to make the practitioners careful in writing standard prescription.



Thank You