



Medication safety issues in Mental Health

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How does CIS drive and support patient safety?

- Collection and analysis of incident/near-miss data
- Closed claims analysis
- Training and education
- Collaboration with training/professional bodies, statutory and voluntary organisations.



Learning from Claims

- Consent
- Communication issues
- Team working
- Medical records, missing, incomplete, illegible, altered
- Confidentiality



- “Never write a prescription carelessly. Legibility is the first requirement, neatness the second. Cultivate the habit of scrutinizing everything you write after it is written, to assure yourself that there is neither omission nor mistake and sign your name or initials to every prescription, but not until you have satisfied yourself that it is as intended.
- Mistakes are seldom discovered unless at the moment of their occurrence.”

Excerpt from “The Physician Himself” . D W Cathell MD. 1890.



Medication issues and Mental Health

- Co-morbidities
- Attempted suicide/self-harm
- Metabolic syndromes
- Bone marrow depression
- Hyponatraemia
- Drug interactions



Mental Health Medication safety claims

- Clozapine related deaths.(2) Cardiomyopathy(1).
- Risperidone-Tardive Dystonia.
- Medication error-Haloperidol administered instead of Escitalopram (Lexapro).
- Lithium induced Chronic Renal Failure.
- Lexapro-suicidal attempt.
- Tegretol-Stevens Johnson syndrome.
- Olanzapine-Neuroleptic syndrome.



Thank you