

Event Type: 4 – Medication Event

Definition: The event involved a problem with the therapies or substances, other than food, used in the prevention, diagnosis, alleviation, treatment, or cure of disease (WHO 2006)

Medication Event					
Level 2 data elements	Definition	Level 3 Data Elements	Definition	Level 3 Data Elements	Definition
4.1 Prescribing	The event involved a problem with a verbal or written directive by an authorised person for the preparation and administration of a medication to be used in the subject's treatment (WHO 2006)/IIS PAG	Wrong subject	Prescribing a medicine to a subject that is not intended for him or her (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong drug	Prescribing a medicine that is not the best choice or the intended choice for the subject's condition (VCP 2006) includes medicines to which the patient has a known allergy		
		Unnecessary drug	Prescribing a medicine that is not indicated, or is a duplication of indication, for the subject's condition (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong dose and/or frequency	Prescribing a medicine at a dose and/or frequency different from that intended, and/or is practical or appropriate for the subject's condition (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong form	Prescribing a medicine in a dosage form different from that intended, and/or is practical or appropriate for the subject's condition (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong route	Prescribing a medicine by a route different from that intended, and/or is practical or appropriate for the subject's condition (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong rate	Prescribing an infusion at a rate different from that intended, and/or is practical or appropriate for the subject's condition (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong time	Prescribing a medicine at a time different from that intended, and/or is practical or appropriate for the subject's condition (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong duration	Prescribing a medicine for a duration that is different from that intended, and/or is practical or appropriate for the subject's condition (VCP 2006)		

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Level 2 data elements	Definition	Level 3 Data Elements	Definition	Level 3 Data Elements	Definition
		Omitted drug or dose	Failing to prescribe a medicine for the subject's condition. This includes medications inadvertently omitted at admission or on discharge (VCP 2006)		
		Drug interaction	Prescribing a medicine that results in an unintended interaction. (VCP 2006)		
		Inadequate or inappropriate monitoring	Failure to use appropriate information for assessment of prescribed therapy. (VCP 2006)	See 4.7 below	
		Illegible, ambiguous or incomplete order	Prescribing a medicine in a manner where the prescriber's intention is not clear. (VCP 2006)		
4.2 Preparation / dispensing	The event involved a problem with preparing the requested medication or with responding to a request for medication.	Wrong subject	Dispensing a medicine to a subject that is not intended for him or her. (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong drug	Dispensing a medicine different from that prescribed. (VCP 2006) includes medicines to which the patient has a known allergy		
		Wrong dose and/or frequency	Dispensing a medicine at a dose and/or frequency different to that prescribed. (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong form	Dispensing a medicine in a dosage form different to that prescribed. (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong route	Dispensing a medicine for a route different to that prescribed. (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong rate	Dispensing and labelling an infusion for a rate different to that prescribed. (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong time	Dispensing and labelling a medicine for a time different to that prescribed. (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong duration	Dispensing and labelling a medicine for a duration different to that prescribed. (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong preparation	Dispensing a medicine with wrong instructions for preparation. This includes incorrect dilution and reconstitution, mixing of incompatible drugs, incorrect storage conditions and expired stock. (VCP 2006)		
		Omitted drug or dose	Failing to dispense a medicine as prescribed (VCP 2006)		
		Drug interaction	Dispensing a medicine that results in an unintended interaction (VCP 2006)		
		Inadequate or inappropriate monitoring	Failure to use appropriate information for assessment of prescribed therapy (VCP 2006)	See 4.7 below	

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4.3 Administration	The event involved a problem with giving a treatment or therapeutic agent to a subject by either an authorised individual or by the subject (WHO 2006)	Wrong subject	Administering a medicine to a subject that is not intended for him or her (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong drug	Administering a medicine different from that prescribed (VCP 2006) includes medicines to which the patient has a known allergy		
		Wrong dose and/or frequency	Administering a medicine at a dose and/or frequency different to that prescribed (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong form	Administering a medicine in a dosage form different to that prescribed (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong route	Administering a medicine by a route different to that prescribed (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong rate	Administering a medicine at an infusion rate different to that prescribed (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong time	Administering a medicine at a time different to that prescribed (VCP 2006)		
		Dose early	Administering a medicine x minutes (to be defined by individual institutions) before the prescribed time (VCP 2006)		
		Dose delayed	Administering a medicine x minutes (to be defined by individual institutions) after the prescribed time (VCP 2006)		
		Wrong preparation	Administering a medicine that is wrongly prepared. This includes incorrect dilution and reconstitution, mixing of incompatible drugs, incorrect storage conditions and expired stock (VCP 2006)		
		Omitted drug or dose	Failing to administer a medicine as prescribed before the next scheduled dose is due (VCP 2006)		
		Drug interaction	Administering a medicine that results in an unintended interaction (VCP 2006)		
		Inadequate or inappropriate monitoring	Failure to use appropriate information for assessment of prescribed therapy (VCP 2006)	See 4.7 below	
		Administered when ceased or withheld	Administering a medicine that is no longer prescribed or is withheld, and/or which is not intended, practical or appropriate for the subject's condition. (VCP 2006)		

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		Administered not signed	Administering a medicine as prescribed but failing to document the administration on the subject's drug chart or other treatment record. (VCP 2006)		
		Extra dose given	Administering a medicine in excess of the total number of doses prescribed for the subject's condition. (VCP 2006)		
4.4 Adverse Drug Reaction	The event involved an untoward (unplanned/unexpected), medical reaction that presents during treatment with medication that occurs at doses normally used for the prophylaxis, diagnosis or therapy of disease, or for the modification of physiological function (WHO 2006)				
4.5 Contraindication	The event involved a factor or circumstance that renders the use of a medication inadvisable or unwise (WHO 2006)				
4.6 Reconciliation	The event involved a problem with 'the process of obtaining a complete and accurate list of a subject's current home medications — including name, dosage, frequency and route — and comparing admission, transfer, and/or discharge medication orders to that list.' (IHI 2006)				
4.7 Monitoring	The event involved a failure to review information and/or keep a close watch over the status				

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	of the subject prior and subsequent to administration of the medication or during the process of administering the medication (WHO 2006)				
4.8 Quality and Storage	The event involved the inappropriate quality or incorrect storage of a medication (WHO 2006)				