



ROLE OF NURSES IN HANDLING ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS AND DRUG INTERACTIONS



Medicine and safety

Medication plays a vital role in treating and managing diseases, but it can sometimes lead to unintended effects. It is a fact that adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and drug interactions are significant concerns in patient care. In this respect, nurses play a crucial role in identifying, managing and preventing these complications. Their vigilance and clinical expertise are essential in ensuring patient safety.

How nurses make a difference

One of the primary responsibilities of nurses is **monitoring patients after medication administration**. Their role is vital as they are often the first healthcare professionals to observe any unusual symptoms such as rashes, breathing difficulty, dizziness, nausea or changes in vital signs. Early recognition of these warning signs allows prompt intervention which can prevent complications.

Another area in which nurses excel is **accurate medication administration**. By following the “five rights” of medication administration - right patient, right drug, right dose, right route, and right time -

nurses help reduce the risk of medication errors. They also review prescriptions carefully to identify potential drug interactions, especially in patients who are taking multiple medications.

Patient assessment and documentation also see noteworthy contribution by the nurses. Before administering medications, nurses assess the patient’s medical history, allergies, current medications and underlying health conditions. Careful documentation of any adverse reactions ensures that the entire healthcare team is informed and can adjust treatment plans accordingly.

Nurses are also key in the realm of patient education. Nurses educate patients and their families about possible side effects, the importance of following prescribed dosages and the need to report any unusual symptoms immediately. This education empowers patients to actively participate in their own safety and helps in early detection of adverse reactions.

What’s more, nurses play a role in reporting adverse drug reactions through pharma covigilance systems. Reporting helps healthcare institutions and regulatory authorities track drug safety and identify patterns of adverse reactions, facilitating safer medication practices.

Effective communication with doctors and pharmacists is also under the purview of nurses. When nurses suspect a drug interaction or adverse reaction, they promptly inform the healthcare team so that medications can be reviewed or discontinued if necessary.

Truly, nurses are at the frontline of medication safety. Through careful observation, accurate administration, patient education and timely reporting, they play a critical role in preventing and managing adverse drug reactions and drug interactions. Their proactive approach helps ensure safer treatment and better health outcomes for patients.