Assessment of the Medication Interruptions Among Nurses Working in Paediatric Unit at University Teaching Hospital of Kigali

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**Citation of this paper:**
Nkurunziza, Aimable; Chironda, Geldine; Katenda, Godfrey; Rajeswaran, Lakshmi; Munyaneza, Emmanuel; and Mukeshimana, Madeleine, "Assessment of the Medication Interruptions Among Nurses Working in Paediatric Unit at University Teaching Hospital of Kigali" (2020). *Africa Western Collaborations Day 2020 Abstracts*. 13.  
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Abstract

Introduction: Medication errors continue to challenge the patient safety all over the world. Interruptions have been proven to cause many medication administrations errors in a healthcare setting especially in pediatric settings.

Aim of the study: The aim of the study is to assess the medication interruptions that occur during medication administration among nurses in pediatric unit at the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali.

Methods: This study was a descriptive observational study which was conducted at UTHK-Rwanda using a developed observational checklist. 59 nurses were conveniently sampled. Data was entered into Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26. Descriptive and inferential statistics using Binary and multivariable logistic regression were used to analyze the data. The study was approved by IRB of the University of Rwanda and participants’ rights were protected.

Results: Among 414 medication administrations observed, 149 (36%) had interruptions. Top three sources of interruption were technical problem (14.5%), patient related and Self-initiated. The main reason for interruption was direct care (12%). The main reasons for interruptions were direct care, indirect care, professional discussions and social. The factors associated with interruption occurrence were shift of the day, time of medication round, duration of medication administration, phase of medication administration, age, educational level, professional experience and nurse’s perception (p< .05).

Conclusion: The existence of medication interruptions is evident with associated factors predominantly demographics and technical. Therefore, the authors recommend in-service training program for nurses on medication administration errors. The hospital leadership should solve the technical problems including availing the needed materials for drugs administration.

Key words: Interruptions, medication administration, pediatric, nurses, Rwanda.