



The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing preventable harm from medication incidents

<p>Adverse Drug Event: An injury from a medicine or lack of an intended medicine. Includes adverse drug reactions and harm from medication incidents.</p>	<p>High-Alert Drugs: Drugs that bear a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm when they are used in error. e.g.; opioids, insulin, anticoagulants, sedation agents, paralyzing agents, resuscitation drugs, chemotherapeutic agents, high concentration electrolytes, dialysis solutions,...</p>
<p>Medication Incident: A potentially preventable injury from a medicine or lack of an intended medicine. Also includes near-misses.</p>	

Investigating a Medication Incident

Step one

- Attend to the patient, family, and health care workers
- Report the incident

Step two

- Assemble a multi-disciplinary team

Step three

- Gather information

Step four

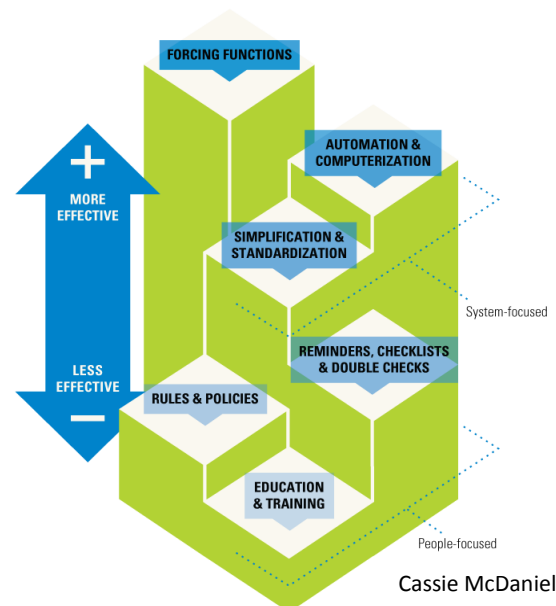
- Understand What happened
- Understand How and Why it happened
- Identify the contributing factors and root causes

Step five

- Identify mitigating strategies based on the contributing factors
- Create actions to prevent recurrence
- Use the hierarchy of effectiveness and “aim for the top”

Look for systems-based factors that result in longstanding change

The Hierarchy of Intervention Effectiveness



ISMP Canada Website: www.ismp-canada.org
 ISMP Canada Safety Bulletins: www.ismp-canada.org/ISMPCSafetyBulletins.htm
 Report Medication Errors: www.ismp-canada.org/err_index.htm
 Contact ISMP Canada: info@ismp-canada.org

Collaboratively Advancing Safe Medication Use