

## **Research Assessment #4**

**Date:** 10/25/24

**Subject:** Pediatric Medical Errors in the Home

**MLA Citation:**

healthy children.org. "Ways to Prevent Children's Medication Errors at Home." *HealthyChildren.org*, 1 Nov. 2021, [www.healthychildren.org/English/news/Pages/ways-to-prevent-home-medication-errors.aspx](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/news/Pages/ways-to-prevent-home-medication-errors.aspx).

**Assessment:**

Medical errors pose a serious threat to the youth population. The unique aspects of the pediatric field are major determinate in the probability of medical errors occurring, and according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) most errors occur within the home. Through my research this year I hope to combat this issue through the education of patients.

The article "Ways to Prevent Children's Medication Errors" by healthychildren.org offered a new perspective regarding different threats that could lead to the occurrence of errors in the home. Introducing their topic they report that "more than half of US children take one or more medications per week"(3). Through my previous research I am led to believe that medical errors in the home are mostly due to incorrect administration of

medication. This inference aligned with the statistic above offers an explanation for the prevalence of medical errors in the pediatric field. One area in which they specifically identify in their research is the use of liquid medications. Liquid medication offers a unique challenge as patients must specifically measure their dosage themselves. The publication, [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org), says that "liquid formulations are involved in more than 80% of pediatric home medication errors"(6). After being introduced to this new statistic I will be meticulous in my research regarding liquid medications, and specifically discuss the risks in which taking liquid medications involves so parents can be more aware and thoughtful in the administration of liquid medication to their children. This will be a focal point in my original work, and I will continue to research this specific topic in depth.

Diving deeper into the discussion of prescription medication this organization lists barriers that might contribute to the occurrence of an error in the home. One which I found integral to my research was that errors may occur due to a complicated medication administration regime. Following the recognition of this issue they offer the solution of the creation of regimes that are easy to follow and fairly simple. While I agree that this solution could reduce confusion I don't think it can be applied to a general population. Some pediatric patients may require large, complicated regimes. In this case, I think it is important for both parents and patients to be best

equipped with the knowledge and ability to maintain their regimen. This can be either done through a chart or schedule (this may be especially helpful for younger patients who need a visual reminder). This new perspective has led me to pursue deeper research into prescription medication in order to offer helpful tips regarding how to keep up with medications.

As I continue in my original research over the next few months I will take special consideration of prescription medications due to their relevance in the pediatric population, in order to help combat the occurrence of medical errors in the home. I hope to equip parents with the knowledge to possibly help save their children's lives and prevent them from performing a medical error.

[Link to Annotated Paper](#)