

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Medication Adverse Event in an Infant

Summary:

A nineteen day old infant had an elective circumcision performed with local anesthetic (lidocaine) at a primary care clinic. The procedure was uneventful,

One hour after being discharged, the infant was brought to the Emergency Department with shortness of breath, pallor, and lethargy. The infant was diagnosed with suspected lidocaine toxicity believed to be from lidocaine infiltrated locally pre-procedure.

The infant was admitted to the Emergency Department overnight for observation and recovered without any apparent long term effects

Keywords:

Medication, lidocaine

Findings of the Review:

The volume of Lidocaine to be injected was miscalculated prior to administration.

There is no established protocol for double checking medication calculations in the clinic setting.

Documentation in the patient record was insufficient. All employees had not completed the required online learning module - Documentation: Basic Principles for Health Professionals.

System Learning:

Consider developing a visual quick reference for medication calculation and posting this in the clinic procedure areas.

Provide regular staff education sessions on the importance of documentation; this is in keeping with regulatory body standards.

Ensure staff accountability in completing mandatory education modules.

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