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#psoalert



It only
takes...

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*Reviewing one
alert or safety
watch could save a
thousand lives.*

SAFETY WATCH TOPIC

Take Action. INTRANASAL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Based on industry data and recent findings from event data submitted to the PSO, the Center for Patient Safety is issuing a Safety Watch about intranasal medication administration.

Recently, an EMS provider mistakenly administered a medication intranasally when it should have been administered by IV route only. There was no harm reported to the patient, however, the patient didn't receive the therapeutic effects desired. This safety watch is to remind providers that not all medications are approved for intranasal administration and dosing can be different from other routes.

Intranasal medication administration is a safe and effective means of administering medication. This administration procedure offers many benefits including ease in administration, rapid absorption and no requirement for intravenous access. On a daily basis, EMS professionals use the intranasal route to save lives and reduce pain, however, not all medications can be administered intranasally.

CAUSAL FACTORS

An incorrectly administered medication can occur at any time, however, most medication errors reach the patient when there is no crosscheck process.

HOW TO MITIGATE RISK

To mitigate and prevent future events, the Center recommends that the five medication rights be followed. In addition, develop a process to support providers with a cross check or medication read back procedure. Always follow medical direction and established protocols. As with all medication administration, the provider should insure the five rights:

1. Right Dose
2. Right Patient
3. Right Route
4. Right Time
5. Right Drug

RESOURCES

Therapeutic Intranasal Drug Delivery
<http://intranasal.net/>

Sedgwick County Medication Cross Check Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qktldQ86pil>

