

Reasonable adjustments to application of the Medication Safety Standard for adult patients with intellectual disability in Australian hospital settings

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Abstract:

The Medication Safety Standard, developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, describes systems and strategies to ensure that clinicians and health organisations safely prescribe, dispense, administer appropriate medications to informed patients and monitor their use. Adults with intellectual disability experience higher rates of preventable adverse medication events across the medicine pathway compared to their peers without disability. Meeting the Medication Safety Standard for this population requires the development of reasonable adjustments to the Standard to facilitate its application and reduce the barriers to safe medication management experienced by people with intellectual disability in hospital settings. Design of such reasonable adjustments is influenced by consideration of the experiences of medication management within this group, living with intellectual disability, and the roles of disability supports and the disability sectors in relation to medication management. The paper describes the formulation of a range of reasonable adjustments to the usual clinical processes, content, knowledge and organisation required in application of the Medication Safety Standard for adult patients with intellectual disability.