Factors Contributing to Medication Errors

Julie Boytim, DNP, RN, CRNA
September 2018
I have no conflict of interest.
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Type
  - Perioperative Medication Error
- Causes
  - Patient Characteristics
  - Environmental Factors
  - Human Factors
  - Perioperative Medication Error

Patient Characteristics

- Acuity
- Age
- Gender
- Procedure
- Physical Status Score
Environmental Factors

Change in Provider

Emergencies
Facility Size
Facility Type

Fragmentation
Induction

Length of Surgery
Provider
Time

Transfer
Workload
Incorrect Administration

Incorrect Dose
Incorrect Route
**Omission**
Prescribing Error
Repetition
**Substitution**
Unauthorized
Unattended Drug
Wrong Time
**Wrong Drug**
Wrong Patient
Causes

Communication
  Dilution
  Documentation
  Equipment
  Knowledge Deficit
  Labeling
  Package Design
  Performance Deficit
  Protocol not followed
  Syringe Swap
Human Factors

Experience
Fatigue
Pressure to Proceed
Vigilance
Stress
Are we making errors?

How is error defined?
Is it the Human?

- Communication
- Overload
- Stress
- Distraction
- Fatigue
- Situational Awareness
- Attention
- Memory
IS THIS PROBLEM JUST “THE NORMALIZATION OF DEVIANCE”? 

• **DEF.** AN INCREMENTAL PROCESS OF GRADUAL EROSION OF NORMAL PROCEDURES THAT WOULD NEVER BE TOLERATED IF PROPOSED IN A SINGLE, ABRUPT LEAP

• **SMALL INCREMENTAL DEVIATIONS ARE OBSERVED AND TOLERATED—** THEY ARE “NORMALIZED” UNLESS AN INJURY OCCURS
Thank you
REFERENCES


