

## Reflection

During today's clinical, 10/05/21, there was an incident that happened pertaining to medication. The incident involved me, the nurse, and the patient. I started out with administering oral medications to the patient. However, the patient stated she had ulcers, so it was harder for her to swallow pills all at once. The patient was taking a while to take the medication one by one. The nurse stated she needed to give medication to other patients, but she had to take the medication with her and would return to finish. The patient then asked the nurse if she could leave the medication on the bedside table and she would "get to it". The nurse stated that she could not leave the medications in the room without supervision. The patient then became hostile and stated, "the other nurses did that". In the end, the nurse tried to educate the patient why it was wrong to leave medications unsupervised and could lead to possible license loss. However, the patient did not believe the nurse and eventually the charge nurse was called to explain the same thing to the patient. At the beginning of the event, I felt confident with giving oral medications to the patient. I knew she would more than likely take a while taking her medications due to her difficulty swallowing. However, the incident did make me feel a little bit concerning because the patient did say the other nurses left their medications at her bedside table unattended. With the outcome of the incident, I was much more alarmed to what could happen if medications were left unattended. Feeling concerned had to be the most important feeling due to not knowing that other nurses were leaving medications without supervision during previous shifts. The good thing about the incident is that the patient finally understood the reason why leaving medications unattended was not good. It was just a bit difficult trying to explain when other nurses left her medications at the bedside. I was glad that I was there to witness the nurse educate the patient and I, myself, understand that leaving medication unattended could make a nurse lose their license. I did expect a different outcome, such as the patient understanding that we will bring back the medication once we were finished with the rest of the patients. From my knowledge of the incident, I know that it is not good practice to leave medications without supervision. Patient's family members could be in the room and take the medication or the patient could drop the medication and not take it at all. With that being said, nurses could also lose their registered nurse license. Research studies state leaving a patient with medications without being monitored can lead to nurses being sued or charged with abandonment (Williams). The incident could have been prevented if other staff nurses did not leave the medications in the room without being monitored. The patient would have known the rules and what to expect during medication administration. However, if this incident ever happened again, I would be patient and wait for the patient to complete their medications before leaving. This would cause less of a situation and no problematic results. In the future, I would communicate with my patient's and educate them how important it is to not have medication on the bedside unattended. That is not only their life being at risk for injury or harm, but my license on the line as well.

## References

Nursing malpractice: Understanding the risks. (n.d.). Retrieved October 7, 2021, from <https://www.nursingcenter.com/upload/journals/documents/200303nsoce1risks.htm>.