

**Medication Errors: Quality Improvement**

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## **Medication Errors: Quality Improvement**

*Quality improvement* is a practice used to refine a process to improve outcomes using data (QSEN Institute, 2020). In quality improvement, one must articulate strategies and find avenues of changing a process for the better. The gathering of information, use of tools, the value of teamwork, results-based decision-making, and willingness to accept changes for the better are essential to the quality assurance process (QSEN Institute, 2020). Quality assurance is much-needed when dealing with medication administration and preventing medication errors. Despite all the mechanized systems and different processes employed, medication errors are still happening; they are preventable and can lead to injury and worse for our patients (Ragau et al., 2018).

### **Article Summary**

Many healthcare environments focus on facility protocols and mechanisms to reduce medication errors, forgetting the human element (Ragau et al., 2018). Medication errors are still occurring despite adding procedural improvements and fine-tuning to the medication administration process (Ragau et al., 2018). Implementing a Hunger, Anger, Lonely, Tired (HALT) approach can help address the human element of the medication administration process and significantly reduce medication errors (Ragau et al., 2018). Facilities should rethink their approach to addressing medications errors by addressing the needs of nurses.

### **Introduction**

Medication errors are a significant concern for the healthcare team and institutions (Ragau et al., 2018). Past interventions in medication administration have not adequately addressed the conditions of nurses that provoke medication errors (Ragau et al., 2018). A HALT approach has successfully reduced medication errors by 31% (Ragau et al., 2018). The Ragau et al. (2018) research article is linked to nursing in that it focuses on the wellbeing of nurses so they can carry out proper medication administration.

### **Overview**

This research article reviews case studies of medication errors in which it identified multiple areas contributing to medication errors. HALT is a tool that looks at medication errors in a new light (Ragau et al., 2018). Using HALT can raise nurses' awareness, giving them the ability to see a bad situation, allowing them to act before the situation precipitating the error starts (Ragau et al., 2018). The article Ragau et al. (2018) recognizes that nurses affect patient care outcomes related to medication administration and uses HALT as a tool and appreciates that research is ongoing, accomplishing QSEN competencies for quality improvement (QSEN Institute, 2020).

### **Quality Improvement**

HALT can potentially apply to any healthcare setting, but more research is needed (Ragau et al., 2018). Educating nurses about how their emotions and wellbeing can influence patient safety and a healthy risk-analysis program is foundational when implementing HALT (Ragau et al., 2018). In practice, administrators and leaders would have to address nurses exhibiting signs of stress and confront them using HALT; further, leadership can ensure staff members are well-fed, hydrated, and have a five-minute break if needed (Ragau et al., 2018).

After implementation, the employee could be referred to an employee assistance program to augment HALT (Ragau et al., 2018). These changes could have a low financial cost to a facility and save it from lawsuits in the future. HALT can positively affect nurse safety and satisfaction by improving their wellbeing through awareness and culture change (Ragau et al., 2018). The safety of patients could stand to improve with HALT due to decreased medication errors by nursing staff.

### **Application to Nursing**

Here add in a summary of the information learned to the application to practice. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com. Be sure to cover all aspects within the rubric. Be sure to use double space and to tab over for your first line of a new paragraph.

### **Practice**

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to practice. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

### **Education**

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to education. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

### **Research**

Paragraph goes here discussing the application of research. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

## Conclusion

Write a conclusion here in your overall paper. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

## References

QSEN Institute (2020). *QSEN Competencies*.

[https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/#quality\\_improvement](https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/#quality_improvement)

Ragau, S., Hitchcock, R., Craft, J., & Christensen, M. (2018). Using the HALT model in an exploratory quality improvement initiative to reduce medication errors. *British Journal of Nursing*, 27(22), 1330–1335. <https://doi.org/10.12968/bjon.2018.27.22.1330>