

5 Causes of Medication Errors that Significantly Increased During COVID-19

PHARMACY



How did the pressures of COVID-19 impact medication safety in Canadian pharmacies? A study conducted by Safe Assured on behalf of Pharmapod analyzed data representing more than 60,000 entries of medication errors and near-miss events from 65% of Canadian pharmacies pre- and post-COVID-19.

While some areas of risk remained consistent with pre-COVID reporting, five areas of risk significantly increased and tended to be involved when harm occurred. They are...

1

Drug-Related Issues

DOUBLED!

All Cases

Pre-COVID: 4.7%
Post-COVID: 8.6%

Cases Causing Harm

Pre-COVID: 7.1%
Post-COVID: 15.9%

2

Critical Patient Info Missing or Incorrect

DOUBLED!

All Cases

Pre-COVID: 1.8%
Post-COVID: 2.9%

Cases Causing Harm

Pre-COVID: 2.8%
Post-COVID: 5.6%

3

Patient / Caregiver Education Issues

DOUBLED!

All Cases

Pre-COVID: 1.6%
Post-COVID: 3.0%

Cases Causing Harm

Pre-COVID: 5.2%
Post-COVID: 9.0%

4

Environmental Distractions

TENFOLD INCREASE!

All Cases

Pre-COVID: 1.1%
Post-COVID: 11.3%

Cases Causing Harm

Pre-COVID: 1.1%
Post-COVID: 18.8%

5

Operational Processes

TENFOLD+ INCREASE!

All Cases

Pre-COVID: 0.4%
Post-COVID: 6.2%

Cases Causing Harm

Pre-COVID: 0.9%
Post-COVID: 10.1%

LEARN MORE



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