



## Assessment of Health Care Providers' Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on patient safety and Medication Error Reporting

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### ABSTRACT

*Medication error (ME) is a threat to patient safety (PS). It accounts for prolonged hospitalization, extra medical interventions, morbidity and even death. Awareness about the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) towards PS and ME reporting of health care professionals (HCPs) is a base to improve the quality of health services whereby reducing the risk of ME. Hence, the main aim of this study was to assess health care professionals' KAP on patient safety and ME reporting at selected health institutions. A cross-sectional survey using self-administered questionnaire was conducted in a selected four health facilities during March to June 2016. A total of 218 HCPs, namely: physicians, nurses, midwives and pharmacy personnel participated in the study. The data were collected by trained nurses and graduating pharmacy students under the supervision of the authors. Majority of the participants (83.3%) had inadequate knowledge towards PS and ME reporting, although there appeared to be some differences across professions. Similarly, the majority of the respondents' (83.8%) had an unfavorable attitude regarding PS and ME reporting, with the physicians being the largest proportion (92.3%) of the respondents, followed by the nurses (85.4). Moreover, about 82% of the respondents were not practicing reporting ME, with midwives (92.3%) taking the highest proportion followed by physicians (84.6%). The main reason for not reporting the encountered ME was insufficient clinical knowledge to identify ME (18.17%) followed by fear of punishment (16.2%) and the unavailability of reporting format (12.3%). The overall knowledge, attitude and practice of health care providers on the PS and ME reporting were not favorable and satisfactory. This might be due to individual and/or system related factors such as insufficient clinical knowledge to identify ME, fear of disciplinary action and unavailability of reporting formats. Thus, sustainable on job training should be given to health care providers, by giving special emphasis to physicians, nurses and midwives in order to improve patient safety and minimize the risk of ME.*

**Keywords:** Patient safety, Medication error reporting, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Ethiopia.