

Repeated prescription of known identified drugs with a history of drug allergy

Sir,

The problem of drug allergy in clinical practice is very important. In a recent publication by Vora *et al.*, it was noted that “Fatal and life-threatening adverse reactions reported in the present as well as other studies underline the importance of such studies and need for creating awareness among health professionals about looking for and reporting such reactions.”^[1] Many systems are implemented to help solve the problem of drug allergy. An interesting method is the use of labeling technique in cases with known identified drugs with a history of drug allergy. This can also be electronically performed and printed in any prescription form for physician usage. Here, I would like to present the data on the repeated prescription of known identified drugs with a history of drug allergy in an out-patient unit of a hospital in Bangkok (for privacy reason, the name is not given). The hospital uses electronic labeling to help notify the case with

known identified drugs with a history of drug allergy. Within a 1-month period (December 2010), there were 1548 completed prescription forms and the incidence of repeated prescription of known identified drugs with a history of drug allergy was equal to 0.19% (3 cases). All cases were of the prescription of an antibiotic from the penicillin group. Indeed, the antibiotic is from the group of drugs that is frequently recorded for its adverse effects. Generally, the antibiotic is widely used in clinical practice. Of interest, although there is an attached notification, the error can still be detected. This reflects that human error is the big issue that needs continuous education and repeated notification system to help solve the problem.

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