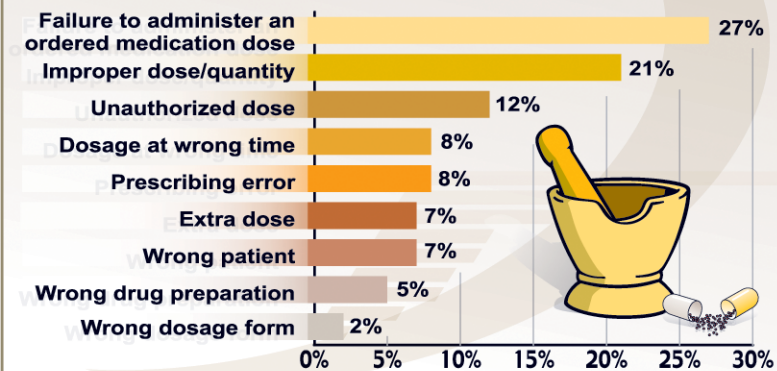


Medication Mishaps

A summary of 1999 data of 6,224 medication-error records from 56 facilities, including community, government, and teaching hospitals, found that three percent of the medication errors (177 cases) resulted in harm or death to patients; 171 errors resulted in temporary patient harm; five errors caused permanent patient harm or a near-death event, and one error resulted in a patient death.



Patients should never take a medication without knowing what the drug is, how much and how often to take it, and the potential side effects.

SOURCE: "Summary of 1999 Information Submitted to MedMARxSM. A National Database for Hospital Medication Error Reporting." U.S. Pharmacopia 2000.