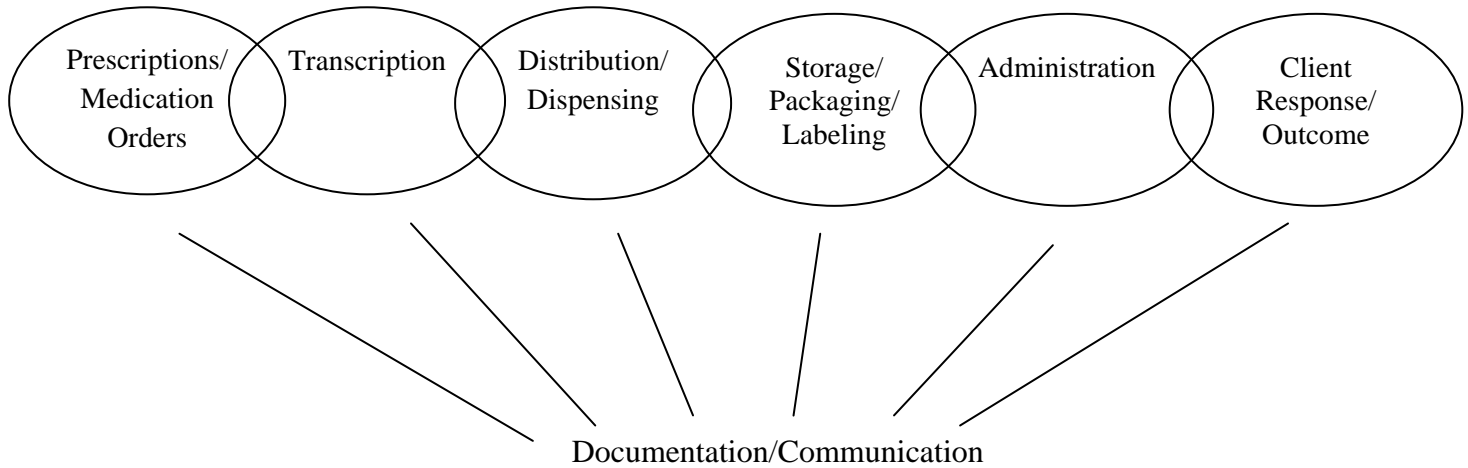


Position Statement 15.17 Table: Factors Contributing to Medication Errors



Schematization of a chain representing the interdependent nature of these elements; a weakness in any link impacts the entire system

Prescriptions/ Medication Orders	Transcription	Distribution/ Dispensing	Storage/ Packaging/ Labeling	Administration	Client Response/ Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Accurate assessments/ Diagnoses *Awareness of allergies, contraindications and drug reactions/ interactions *Correct drug/ dose/route of administration *Clear and legible documentation of order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Clarification of orders (written/verbal if needed) *Clear and legible handwriting *Accurate and complete transcription (e.g. MAR, Kardex, computer) *Proofreading of all transcriptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Clarification of orders if needed *Correct client/drug/ dose/route *Checking expiration dates *Medication preparations (mixing of intravenous solutions, correct pill count) *Clear and legible audit trail *Client teaching and verification of understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Careful review of instructions for use/warnings/ precautions *Storage to avoid inadvertent mix-ups/location of bottles which are similar in appearance *Accurate/ legible and complete labeling on original containers *Careful attention to floor stock expiration dates/mixing instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Assessment of client status *5 rights of medication administration -Right patient -Right medication -Right Dose -Right time -Right route *Client teaching and verification of understanding *Accurate documentation of medication administration (MAR/client records/narcotics log) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Assessment of efficacy/ adverse reactions *Client compliance *Documentation