



CAME Voice/Voix

Advancing Safety for Patients in Residency Education

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While I was a resident on a ward, I witnessed a mistake with a patient. A baby with a seizure disorder was given her medication twice, a double-dose that caused her to be sedated. Her mother had been giving the medication from her home supply, while the nurses were also dispensing the pharmacy supply. Looking through her records, we could not be certain how many times this had occurred. As a physician, I was upset that one of my patients had been harmed by a medical error. As a learner, I was disappointed that I was only included in the conversation after the incident was resolved. I felt powerless. Had I allowed this to happen to one of my patients? Could this happen again tomorrow? I had no idea how I would have approached unravelling the incident and disclosing the error to the mother had I been on my own. My mind was full of questions, primarily revolving around a sensation of inadequacy with regards to resolving such events. Upon reflection, I realized I had these feelings because I was untrained and unprepared; I had never been taught how to approach a patient safety event. Although traditionally this type of education has been left to ad hoc experiences, the move to competency-based training offers an opportunity to better prepare residents to improve patient safety.

My experiences led me to become involved in designing a resident patient safety curriculum for my program. I was subsequently invited to be a resident representative on the Advancing Safety for Patients in Residency Education (ASPIRE) committee. A collaboration between the Royal College (Canada), the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, and Choosing Wisely Canada, ASPIRE is an annual 4-day program that aims to create faculty and resident leaders in patient safety, quality improvement and resources stewardship. The next course will run May 10-13. The ultimate goal of ASPIRE is to empower residents with the skills necessary to safeguard their patients and the knowledge needed to contribute to the critical conversations about patient safety, quality improvement and resource stewardship occurring every day in clinical practice.

More details about the ASPIRE here: <http://www.royalcollege.ca/portal/page/portal/rc/events/aspire>