

# DETECTION OF MEDICATION ERRORS IN PHARMACY USING DEEP LEARNING TECHNIQUES

Devinder Kumar<sup>1</sup>, Dhruv Kumar<sup>2</sup>, Ashwani Sethi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,3</sup>Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, GNE College, Ludhiana

---

## Abstract

*This research paper investigates medication errors (MEs) in community pharmacies over a three-year period, focusing on pharmacist roles in detection and prevention. Utilizing sentinel pharmacies, the study reports 1400 MEs from January 2019 to December 2021. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on ME incidence rates is explored, revealing notable changes. Primary causes of MEs in community pharmacies include incorrect medical prescriptions. The study emphasizes the critical role of community pharmacists in averting errors and stresses the need for increased awareness and pharmacist involvement in patient and drug safety. Overall, it contributes valuable insights to the discourse on MEs and patient safety.*

**Keywords:** Medication Error, Pharmacies, Medical, Prescription, deep learning.

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

A medication error (ME) is any preventable event that may cause incorrect medication use or patient damage while the health care provider or patient controls the medicine. MEs and adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are prevalent and important patient safety issues. Drug-related issues increase morbidity, mortality, hospital admissions, and longer patient stays, raising health care expenses.[1]

According to the OECD, 18.3% of patient adverse events are drug errors. Injury and consequences from pharmaceutical usage are a major concern for patients.[3] Adverse drug incidents cost about US \$76 billion in 2014 and have increased annually. Due to rapid drug research and international trade, pharmaceutical types are diversified nowadays. Polypharmacy, prescription cascade, and inadequate drug reconciliation can also create errors.[4] Computerised medication systems that identify drugs and recognise drug interactions have been developed in many countries to reduce these errors. [5]

Because passively entering surface information in present computerised medicine systems is inconvenient, automated systems must be developed. While computerised medication systems assist reduce drug usage, they require pharmaceutical skill and a lot of labour to find pills. This is

because medical workers and patients must manually enter medicine names and attributes. Previous research found that university hospital chemists spent 20 hours a month identifying drugs, but 25% of medications were not identified in the usual approach. City-wide studies yielded comparable outcomes.[8] They noted that the broken tablets and the medical staff's difficulty identifying pills using the normal technique contributed to this result. Pills are the most extensively used medication forms because to their simplicity and storage, however their small size makes it hard to read imprints. Thus, while most countries have pill identification systems, the above statistics show their limits, despite their therapeutic value. In addition, patients without medical experience have trouble identifying pills while taking multiple dosages of different prescriptions every day. [9] Therefore, several attempts have been made to construct automated pill search systems. These technologies reduce medical staff's pill identification workload and help patients avoid taking the erroneous medicines by delivering accurate information. Many studies have focused on recognising characters etched on tablet surfaces to develop automated pill identification systems.[10] Pill imprints are small and contain acronyms, making them hard to read. Thus, a rapid, accurate automatic pill identification system that recognises imprinted characters is needed.[11]

AI permits machines to learn and group like people. AI envelops numerous strategies, including AI. [12] ML systems characterize their own standards from training information. Main ML assignments are arrangement, relapse, bunching, aspect decrease, or affiliation. By making their own standards, these calculations figure the likelihood of the result on new information, summing up from learned information. Deep learning (DL), a subclass of ML, utilizes a brain network with stowed away layers to pick training dataset qualities (6). DL reproduces human dynamic intricacy.[13] These AI advancements could disturb clinical practices by assisting chemists priorities medication with requesting surveys for high-risk patients, work with drug choice direction, anticipate measurements of tight restorative file drugs, drug communications, and unfavorable medication responses, and distribute drug store labor force proficiently in an asset constrained climate.[15]

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

**Ting, H. W., Chung, S. L., Chen, C. F., Chiu, H. Y., & Hsieh, Y. W. (2020):** Patient wellbeing relies upon exact prescriptions. This standard deep learning drug identification (DLDI) concentrate on aims to comprehend how people befuddle resemble the other the same pictures for rankle bundle identification utilizing the mental partner of deep learning arrangements and to propose improved arrangements.[14]

**Alkanj, A., Godet, J., Johns, E., Gourieux, B., & Michel, B. (2024):**In 2017, a French university hospital collected recommendation data for the study. Two chemists categorised data from the first six months of 2017 into one of the 29 French Society of Clinical Pharmacy classifications. A deep neural network classifier predicted recommendation class. Validation dataset prediction accuracy was 78.0%. We also forecasted classes for second-half 2017 without recommendations. Out of

4,460 forecasts, 67 needed adjustments. After concatenating these labelled data with the original dataset and retraining the neural network, accuracy achieved 81.0%. [2]

**Ciampi, M., Coronato, A., Naeem, M., & Silvestri, S. (2022):** An emotionally supportive network in light of home sensors, Surrounding Knowledge, and Man-made consciousness diminishes prescription errors for the old at home. We treat medication oversight, portion, timing, and drug collaborations. Since the patient might have physical or mental disabilities, the proposed arrangement utilizes progressed self-variation and state of the art AI innovations like Support Learning, Deep Learning, and NLP to remind and screen treatment adherence. [6]

**King, C. R., Abraham, J., Fritz, B. A., Cui, Z., Galanter, W., Chen, Y., & Kannampallil, T. (2021):** Strategic relapse, arbitrary timberland, supported choice trees, and fake brain networks were assessed. AUROC and AUPRC were utilized to assess model execution. Out of 5,804,192 medication orders, 28,695 (0.5%) were voided. ML precisely perceived voids with a 10% positive prescient worth, taking into consideration ~20% botches. Angle supported choice trees had the most noteworthy AUROC (0.7968) and AUPRC (0.0647). Calculated relapse performed most obviously terrible. Understudy orders were prescient markers with high face legitimacy, and a choice tree found connecting settings with high error rates that relapse models missed. Expectation models utilizing request section information can work on understanding security, error reconnaissance, and designated clinical audit. The better presentation of models with complex associations recommends that context oriented medication requesting data is essential for figuring out medication errors. [7]

## 2.1.OBJECTIVES

- To Investigate and analyze medication errors (MEs) in community pharmacies.
- To Evaluate the role of community pharmacists in detecting, notifying, and preventing MEs.
- Explore the causes and factors contributing to MEs, particularly during the dispensing process.

## 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 3.1.Research Design

To distinguish and investigate MEs, we directed a three-year clear, observational, and forthcoming review (January 2019-December 2021).

### 3.2.Sampling Frame

The inclusion criteria were a community pharmacy patient with a predicted occurrence that could lead to pharmaceutical misuse or harm. Dual cases—incomplete information and non-drug products—were rejected. The community chemist only found MEs when giving medication during their normal pharmacy care without access to the patient's medical records. Two parts made up the four-hour workshop. Pharmacists were first taught theoretical material to

boost their understanding. Next, real notification cases were used to improve information collection, case detection, and activity knowledge and skills.

### 3.3.Data Collection

Local area scientific experts finished an unknown 11-thing electronic questionnaire when a ME was tracked down in their ordinary consideration. The approved electronic structure ("Notice of medication error") has four segments: drug store identification, ME characterization, medication engaged with the ME, and drug specialist the board.

No agree was tried to notice the meeting and gather patient information secretly. The Service of Wellbeing's applications entryway, available by username and secret word through the Drugs and Drug store Channel site, put away all classified information.

### 3.4.Statistical Analysis

The variables were categorised and summarised as (notified) cases and percentages. For statistical analysis, we classified notifications by quarter. We then found significant group differences using the Kruskal–Wallis test. The multiple comparison used a post-hoc Dunn's test. We defined statistical significance as a p-value <0.05 in this investigation.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1.Incidence Data

ME notifications totaled 1400 during the trial. Three-year cumulative incidence is 737.34 cases/100,000 people. Pre-pandemic ME notifications in 2019 (302.05 cases/100,000 people) were lower than pandemic ME notifications in 2020 and 2021 (435.30 cases/100,000 inhabitants). Overall, variations were negligible.

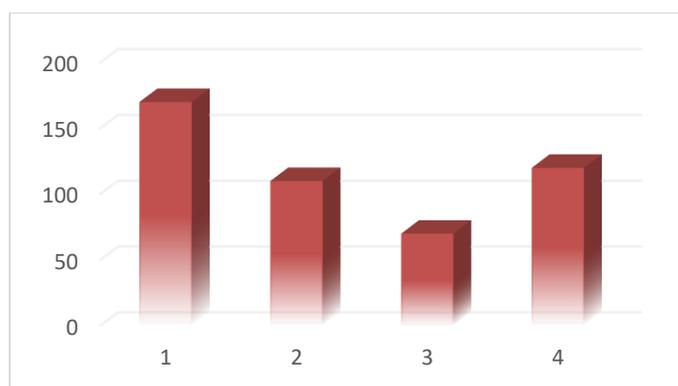


Figure 1:ME Notification of 2019

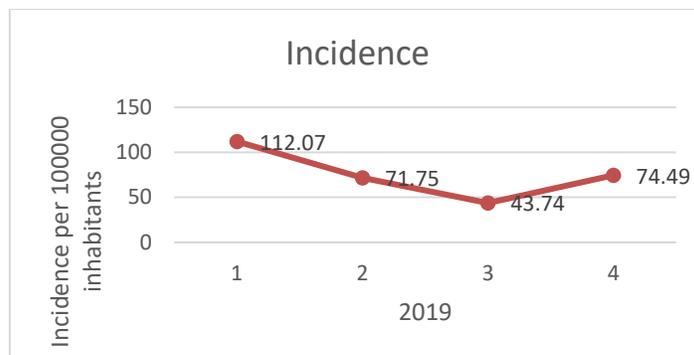


Figure 2: ME Incidence of 2019

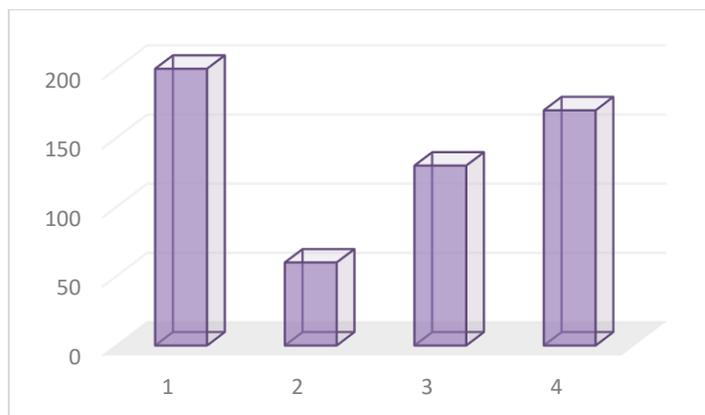


Figure 3: ME Notification of 2020

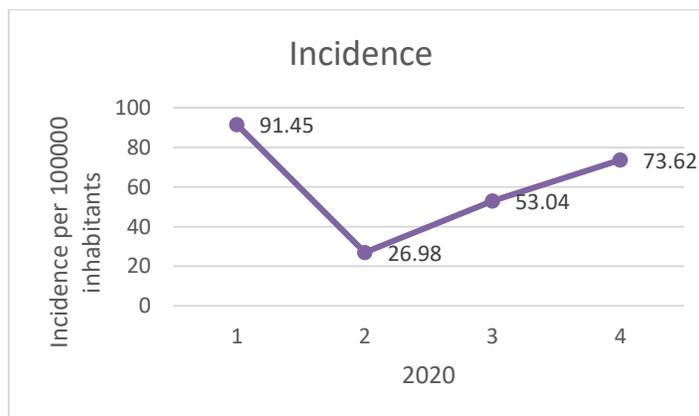


Figure 4: ME Incidence of 2020

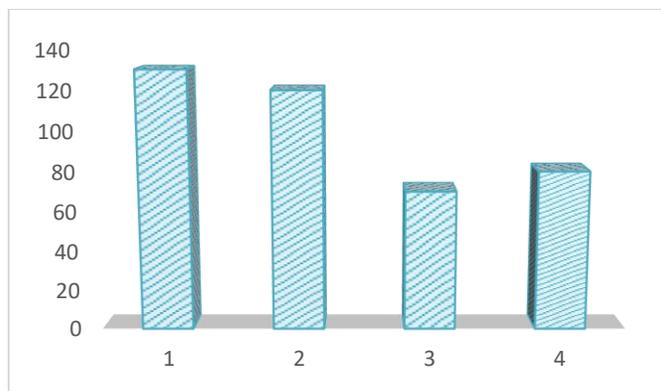


Figure 5: ME Notification of 2021



Figure 6: ME Incidence of 2021

#### 4.2. Typology of Medication Error

MEs were most normal in essential consideration communities, then, at that point, in the patient's home, medical clinic, different spots, drug store, and nursing homes. No genuinely huge changes were seen between ME areas across the three-year preliminary. A wrong, incomplete, indecipherable, or spoken medical prescription (41%), trailed by an unseemly measurement (12%), caused most MEs. Most ME cases had a few causes, consequently the all out number of cases moved toward 1400 notices. The most widely recognized ME causes remained steady across the three-year research. No tremendous contrasts were found. As to seriousness, 72% of worldwide notices didn't arrive at the patient, 28.0% impacted the patient, and 6.0% caused harm, some serious. No devastating MEs were accounted for. The quantity of extreme ME warnings expanded in 2021.

Table 1: Percentages of reported MEs based on the places where the MEs occurred

Year	Other Sources	Primary Care Centers	Patients Home	Hospitals	Pharmacy Office	Nursing Homes
2019	10%	48%	15.5%	12%	12.5%	2%
2020	12%	48%	17%	15%	7%	1%
2021	10%	51%	20%	10%	8%	1%

### 4.3. Drugs Involved

The Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification System rates drug active components by organ or system and therapeutic, pharmacological, and chemical qualities.

## 5. DISCUSSION

Patient security supports medical care quality. Developing interest in this space has prodded examination to assess and report authoritative elements remembered to influence patient wellbeing. Security culture is a result of individual and gathering values, perspectives, discernments, capabilities, examples of conduct, and an association's wellbeing and wellbeing of the executives style and capability. Through the organization of sentinel pharmacies, we can identify, tell, dissect, and stay away from different MEs while apportioning. Medication and organization processes are generally impacted by MEs in emergency clinics and general consideration. We found that the Coronavirus pandemic impacted ME rates from January 2019 to December 2021. As the pandemic lockdown started in Walk 2020, occurrence rates dropped fundamentally in the second quarter of 2020 contrasted with 2019. Expanded cases from the omicron variation pestilence brought down ME occurrence in the final quarter of 2021 contrasted with 2019. ME causes include various components since errors can happen at any stage in the treatment chain (prescription, approval, conveyance, and organization). The statistics indicate that community pharmacists recognized MEs due to erroneous, partial, illegible, or verbal medical prescriptions and doses. Other worldwide studies that examined MEs and quality-related events during dispensing also found this.

## 6. CONCLUSION

This study shows the importance of community pharmacies and pharmacists in patient and drug safety. This study detailed the MEs found during dispensing, offering valuable information. A community chemist can avoid most MEs and interrupt patient-harming errors. Improving surveillance and multidisciplinary communication should affect the most serious ADR-related MEs. Community pharmacists are vital to the health system, especially in simple tasks, but their ME reduction efforts have been underappreciated. The community pharmacy can reduce MEs and protect patients by disseminating these outcomes and encouraging pharmacist involvement in patient and medication safety.

## REFERENCES

1. Aboneh, E.A.; Stone, J.A.; Lester, C.A.; Chui, M.A. Evaluation of Patient Safety Culture in Community Pharmacies. *J. Patient Saf.* 2020, 16, e18–e24.
2. Alkanj, A., Godet, J., Johns, E., Gourieux, B., & Michel, B. (2024). Deep learning application to automated classification of recommendations made by hospital pharmacists

- during medication prescription review. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, zxae011.
3. Alzubi J, Nayyar A, Kumar A. Machine Learning from Theory to Algorithms: An Overview. *J Phys: Conf Ser*. 2018 Nov;1142(1):012012.
  4. Ashour, A.; Phipps, D.L.; Ashcroft, D.M. Predicting dispensing errors in community pharmacies: An application of the Systematic Human Error Reduction and Prediction Approach (SHERPA). *PLoS ONE* 2022, 17, e0261672.
  5. Castiglioni I, Rundo L, Codari M, Di Leo G, Salvatore C, Interlenghi M, et al. AI applications to medical images: From machine learning to deep learning. *Physica Medica*. 2021 Mar 1;83:9–24.
  6. Ciampi, M., Coronato, A., Naeem, M., & Silvestri, S. (2022). An intelligent environment for preventing medication errors in home treatment. *Expert Systems with Applications*, 193, 116434.
  7. King, C. R., Abraham, J., Fritz, B. A., Cui, Z., Galanter, W., Chen, Y., & Kannampallil, T. (2021). Predicting self-intercepted medication ordering errors using machine learning. *Plos one*, 16(7), e0254358.
  8. Kumar Y, Gupta S, Singla R, Hu YC. A Systematic Review of Artificial Intelligence Techniques in Cancer Prediction and Diagnosis. *Arch Computat Methods Eng*. 2022 Jun 1;29(4):2043–70.
  9. Mathew A, Amudha P, Sivakumari S. Deep Learning Techniques: An Overview. In: Hassanien AE, Bhatnagar R, Darwish A, editors. *Advanced Machine Learning Technologies and Applications*. Singapore: Springer; 2021. p. 599–608. (Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing).
  10. Panagiotti, M.; Khan, K.; Keers, R.N.; Abuzour, A.; Phipps, D.; Kontopantelis, E.; Bower, P.; Campbell, S.; Haneef, R.; Avery, A.J.; et al. Prevalence, severity, and nature of preventable patient harm across medical care settings: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 2019, 366, 14185.
  11. Pervanas, H.C.; Revell, N.; Alotaibi, A.F. Evaluation of Medication Errors in Community Pharmacy Settings: A Retrospective Report. *J. Pharm. Technol*. 2016, 32, 71–74.
  12. Ranchon F, Chanoine S, Lambert-Lacroix S, Bosson JL, Moreau-Gaudry A, Bedouch P. Development of artificial intelligence powered apps and tools for clinical pharmacy services: A systematic review. *International Journal of Medical Informatics*. 2023 Apr 1;172:104983.
  13. Sutton RT, Pincock D, Baumgart DC, Sadowski DC, Fedorak RN, Kroeker KI. An overview of clinical decision support systems: benefits, risks, and strategies for success. *npj Digital Medicine*. 2020 Feb 6;3(1):1–10.
  14. Ting, H. W., Chung, S. L., Chen, C. F., Chiu, H. Y., & Hsieh, Y. W. (2020). A drug identification model developed using deep learning technologies: experience of a medical center in Taiwan. *BMC health services research*, 20(1), 1-9.

15. World Health Organization. Medication without Harm—Global Patient Safety Challenge on Medication Safety.