

If a Medicine Error Happens

Nursing

The immediate priorities, and why concealment compounds the error.

The error has occurred. What follows determines how much harm results.

1 Assess the patient

Observations, symptoms, and clinical review without delay.

2 Tell the prescriber

And the person in charge, immediately, with the exact detail.

3 Seek advice

Pharmacy or poisons information can advise on likely effects.

4 Monitor as directed

Frequency and duration set by the reviewing clinician.

5 Be open

Tell the patient or family what happened, under candour duties.

6 Report and review

Incident report, factual record, and contribute to the learning.

Educational reference. Never conceal or delay reporting an error. Local medication incident and candour policies govern the process.