

# Canadian Pharmaceutical Bar Coding to Improve Patient Safety

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Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada

# **Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada)**

- Independent not for profit organization
- Established to review and analyze medication error reports and to develop recommendations and programs for the enhancement of patient safety
- Serves as a national resource for promoting safe medication practices throughout the health care community in Canada

# ISMP Canada Services

- Individual practitioner medication incident reporting program (Canadian Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention System – CMIRPS)
- Publication and distribution of safety bulletins and newsletters
- Medication Safety Self Assessment® (a QA tool)
- Analyze-Err® software program
- Root cause analysis of sentinel events
- Medication system reviews
- Root Cause Analysis (RCA) training
- Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) training

# ISMP Canada's key Initiatives:


- Canadian Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention System (CMIRPS)
- Medication Safety Support Services (MoH-ON)
- BC Patient Safety Task Force
- Health Quality Council of Alberta
- Other Provincial Medication Safety Initiatives (SK, MB, NS, NFD)
- Safer Healthcare Now (Medication Reconciliation)











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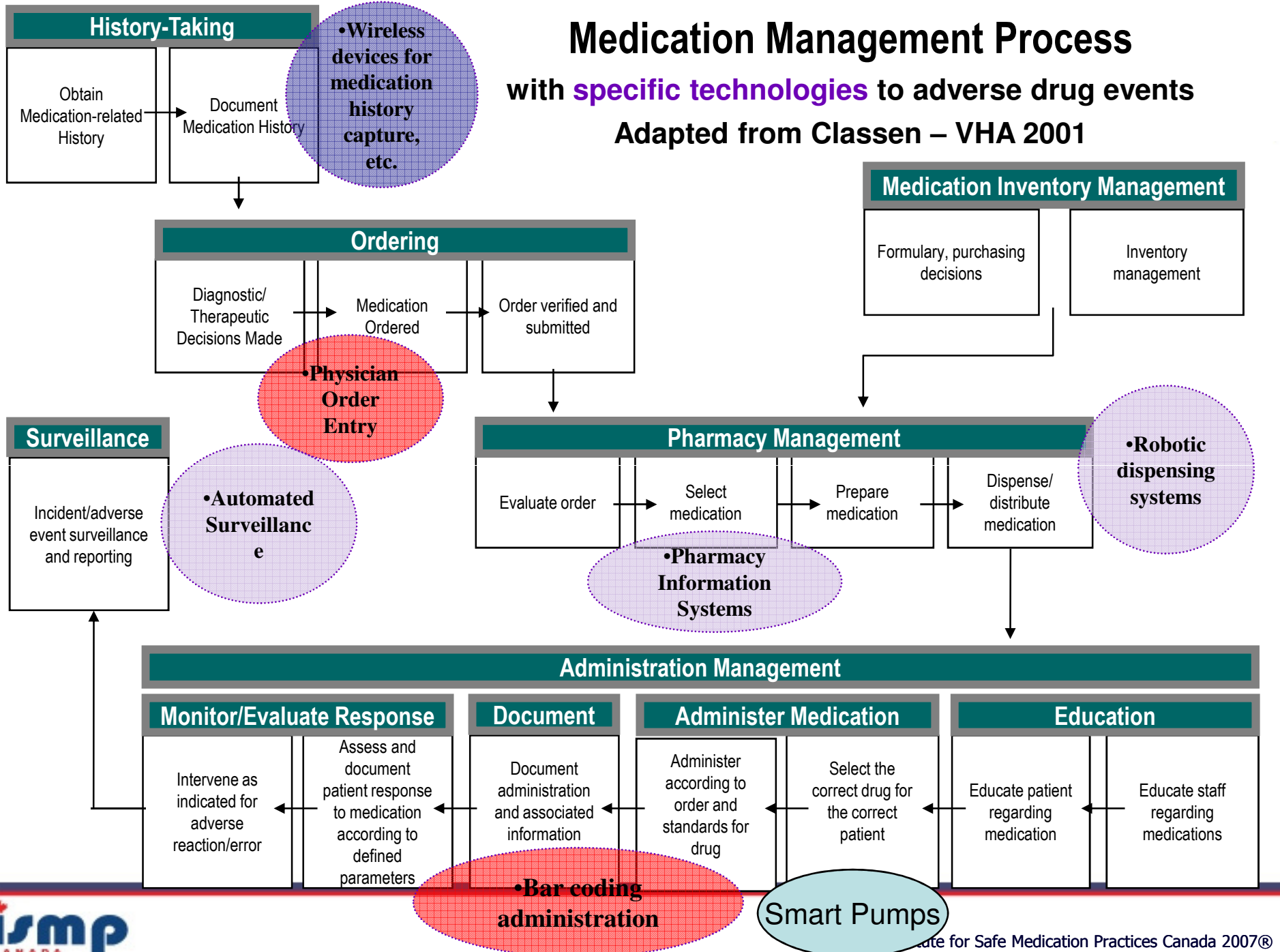




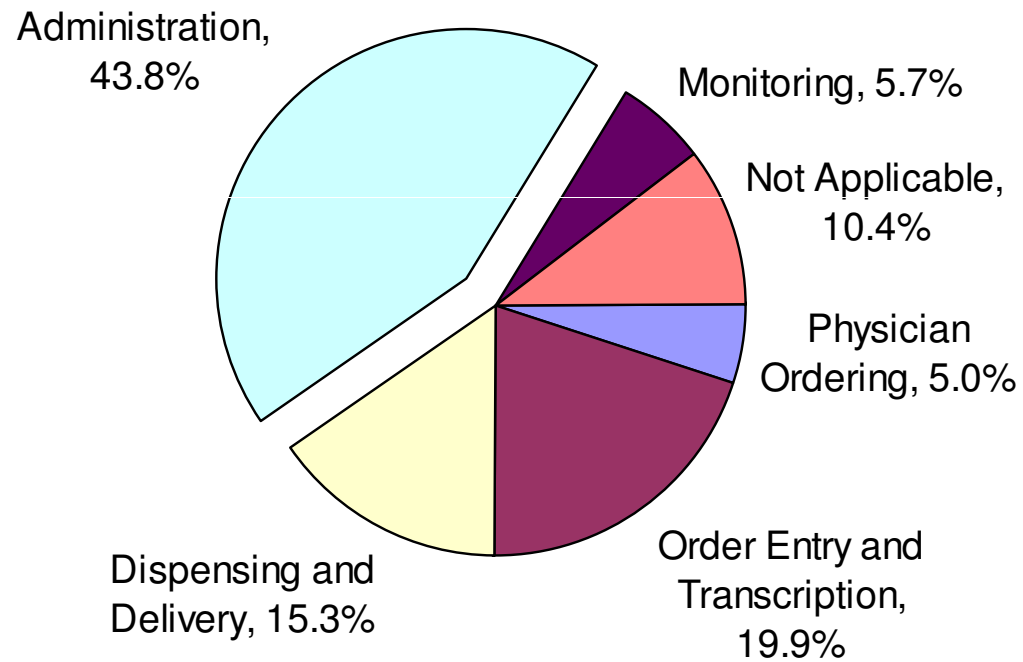
# Medication Management Process

with **specific technologies** to adverse drug events

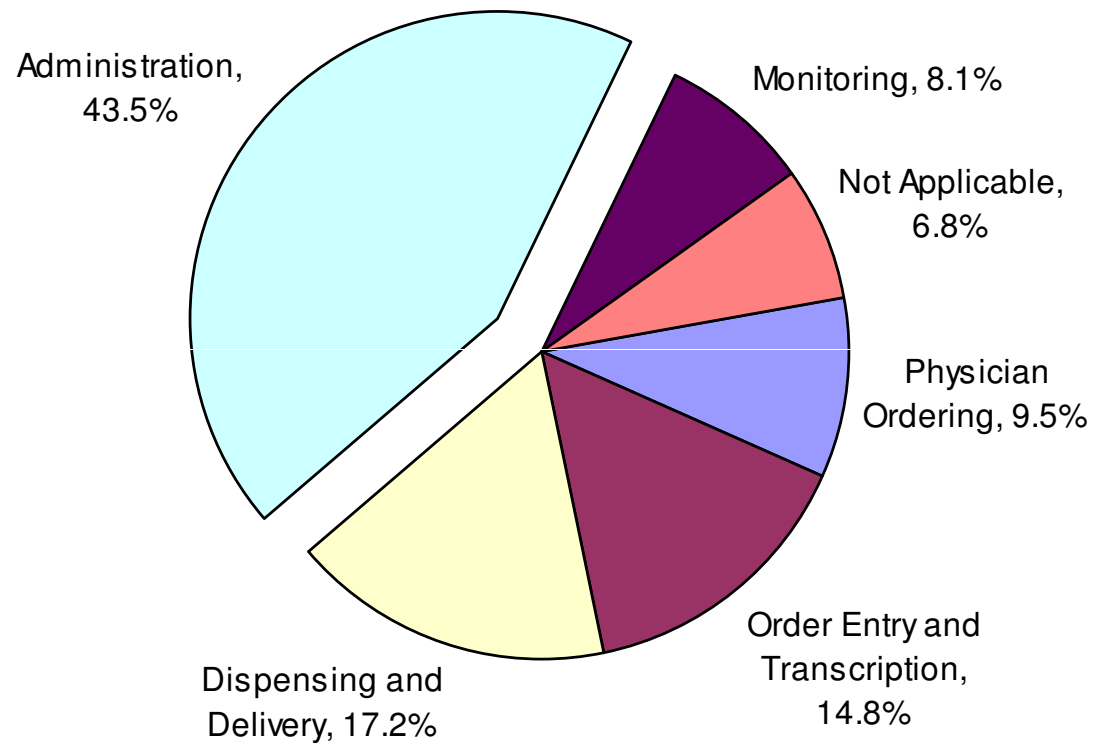
Adapted from Classen – VHA 2001



## Events by Stages (ISMP Canada Database, n=42893)

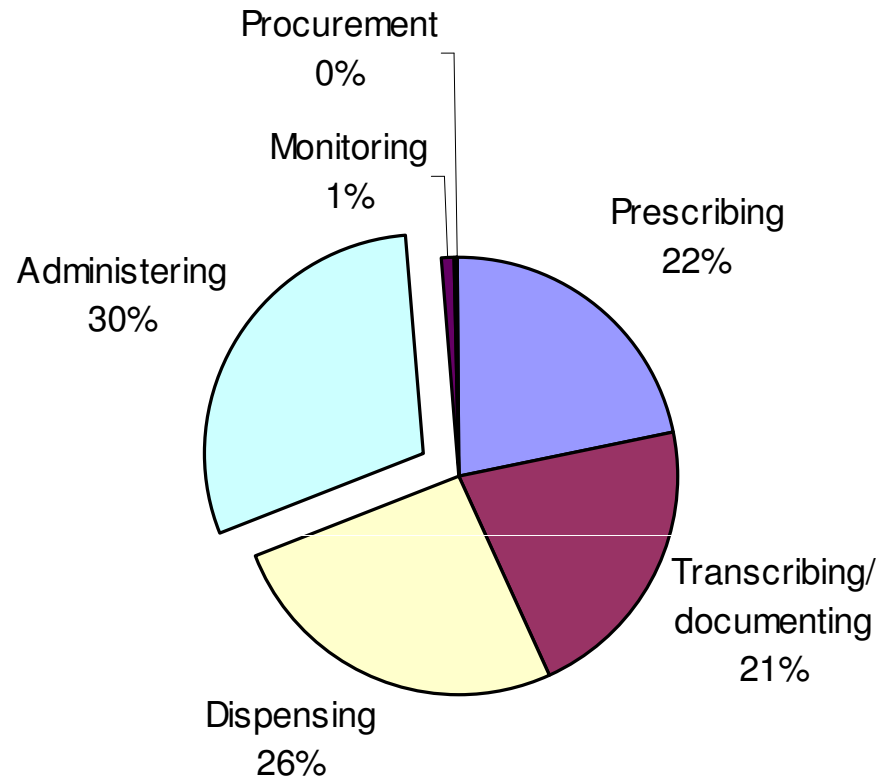


### Events by Stages (Harm or Death only) (ISMP Canada Database, n=1987)



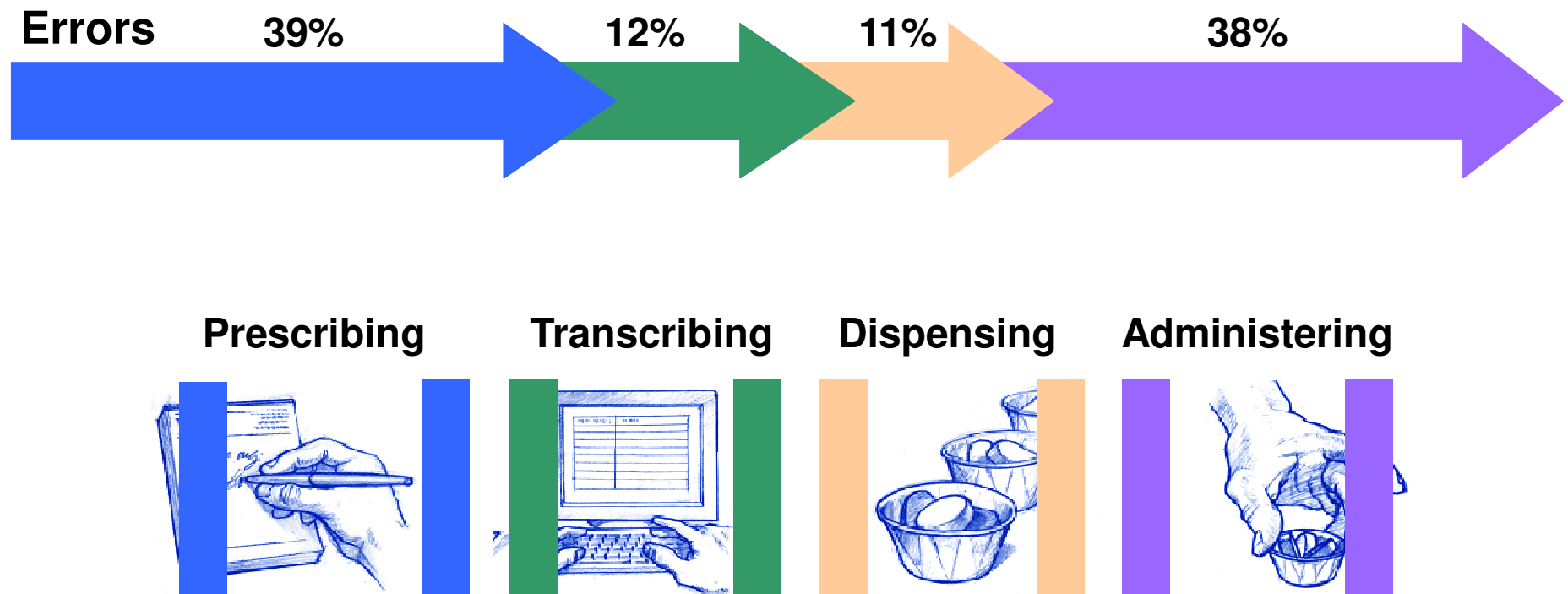
ISMP Canada Database search, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2008

## Event by Stages (MEDMARX Data Report, n=197313)



Hicks, R.W., Becker, S. C., and Cousins, D. D. (2006).  
*MEDMARX® Data Report: A Chartbook of Medication Error Findings from the Perioperative Settings from 1998-2005.*  
Rockville, MD: USP Center for the Advancement of Patient Safety.

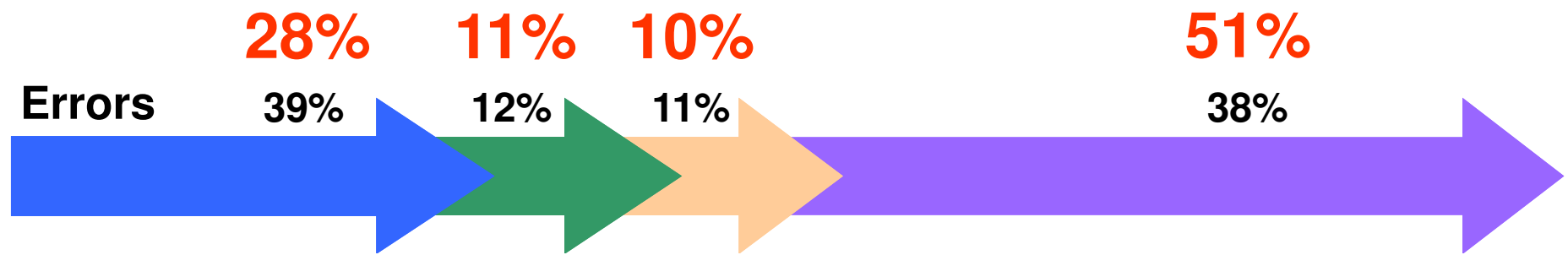
# Errors in the medication use process



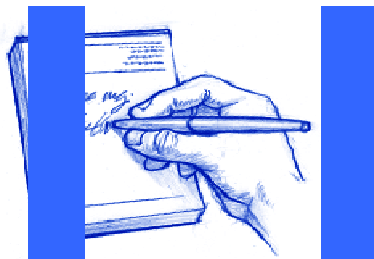
Source JAMA 1995;274:35-43



# Sources of harm



Prescribing



Transcribing



Dispensing



Administering



Source: JAMA 1995;274:35-43

# Rank Order of Error Reduction Strategies

Forcing functions



**Automation and computerization**



Standardization and protocols



Checklists and double check systems



Rules and policies



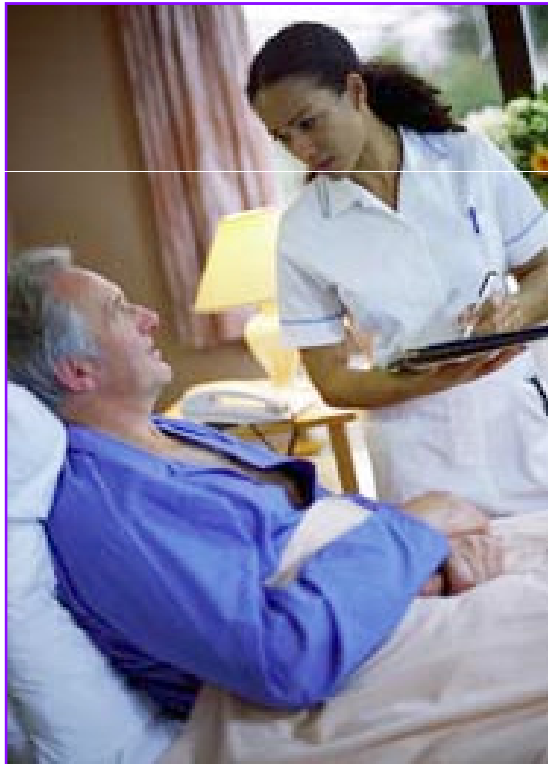
Education / Information

# IOM on bar code technology

- The main impact of CPOE is on ordering and transcription errors; the technique has relatively little impact on administration errors. For reducing the frequency of the latter errors, machine identification techniques such as bar coding – especially when linked to an electronic medication administration record – hold substantial promise, although the evidence for their efficacy is less strong than is the case for CPOE.

# Bar-coding

Mature technology used in virtually every American industry except....



# Bedside Bar-Coding... at the Point-of-Care

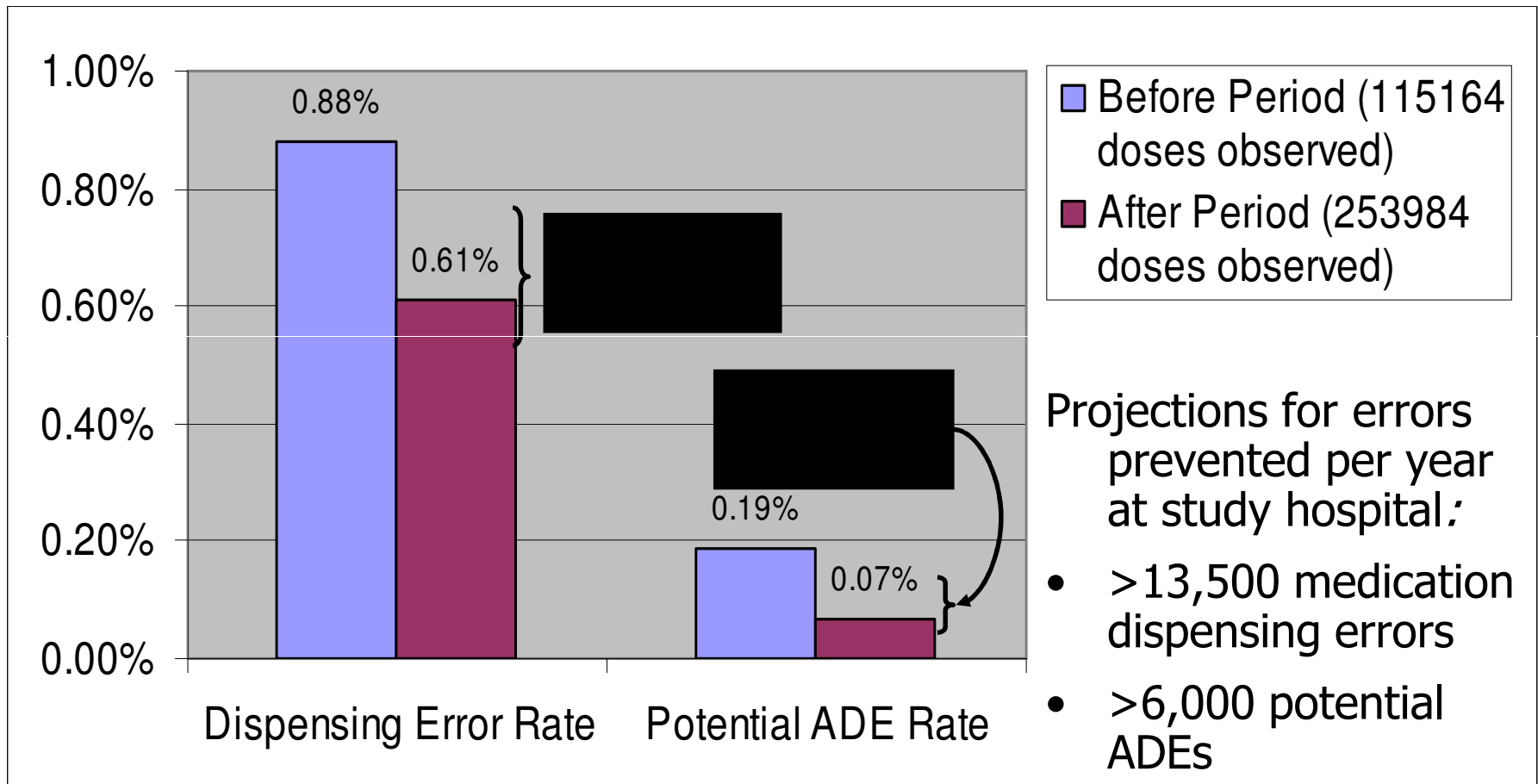




## Basic components of a bedside bar-coding system

- Patients issued a wrist band with a bar-coded unique patient identifier
- Medications dispensed in unit-doses with a readable bar-code listing at least a drug identification number
- Bedside scanners that are linked to other IT systems are available during drug administration
- Drug administered to patient only after scanning provider, patient, and drug

# Dispensing Errors and Potential ADEs: Before and After Barcode Technology Implementation



\*  $p < 0.0001$  (Chi-squared test)

# Common challenges

- Staffing and other resources
- Technology
- Leadership and culture
- Unit-dose dispensing
- Pharmacy and nursing workflow

## Other challenges

- Hardware troubleshooting
- Readable bar code on all packages
- Lack of trust or over reliance on technology
- Managing data
- Cross-departmental lack of knowledge of medication use processes
- Non-standard orders
- Responsiveness

# Use of Bar Code Technology in USA

- FDA mandated bar code on all pharmaceuticals including unit of use package by January 2006
- Approximately 20-25% hospitals have fully implemented BCMA



# Use of Bar Code Technology in Canada

- No regulatory requirement on bar code in pharmaceuticals for now
- Most if not all bulk containers have bar code (but not standardized)
- Application so far for material management purpose
- A handful of hospitals have started BCMA projects
- All SDM pharmacies have new computer system requiring bar code verification of medications to be dispensed



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OFFENDING COMMAND: ~

STACK: