

Robert Allen

Mentor: Fred Gattas

Title: *Survey Addressing Patient Safety Events in Nuclear Medicine*

Abstract

Introduction: Patient safety events in nuclear medicine can lead to negative outcomes including patient harm and death. Various methods are used by nuclear medicine facilities to help reduce the amount of patient safety events. The aim of this study is to provide some insight into the policies, procedures, and technologies being used by these facilities and their reported number of patient safety events within the last year.

Methods: This study followed a retrospective, cross-sectional design and data was obtained using a survey. Nineteen locations containing either a nuclear pharmacy or nuclear medicine department were asked to participate in the survey. The survey included multiple choice, select all that apply, fill in the blank, and short written response questions.

Results: The response rate for this survey was 42%, as eight pharmacists from different locations completed the survey. The most common methods reported for minimizing patient safety events included bar code technology and a form of labeling system. Of the eight responses, only two facilities reported safety events in the past 12 months.

Discussion: Data for this study was limited due to the small sample size. However, systems reported for minimizing patient safety events reflect findings and discussions from previous research. While potential for response bias exists, it appears that updated technology, especially bar-coding technology, has been effective at minimizing patient safety events in the nuclear pharmacy setting.