LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Compare the differences between medication errors (MEs) and adverse drug events (ADEs).
2. Describe the prevalence of MEs and ADEs in the United States.
3. List the types of harm that can occur from MEs and ADEs.
4. Describe at least three reasons why MEs and ADEs are a public health problem.
5. List at least two causes of MEs and ADEs in each step of the medication-use process: procurement, storage, prescribing, dispensing, administration, and patient education.
6. Describe how MEs and ADEs in prescribing, dispensing, administration, and patient education are prevented.
7. Describe at least two quality improvement methods that can be employed to prevent MEs and ADEs.
8. Describe various methods that institutions have implemented to reduce the incidence of MEs and ADEs.
9. Describe the steps in medication reconciliation and how these steps prevent MEs and ADEs.
10. Define the concept of “just culture” of patient safety in preventing MEs and ADEs.