

# Intravenous Medication Safety

## A Quantitative Analysis of Medication Incidents

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1 in 10 incidents resulted in **HARM**

### Background

Use of intravenous (IV) medications is ubiquitous in hospital practice. Awareness of the risk of medication-related harm is an important step towards system-level changes.

### Objective

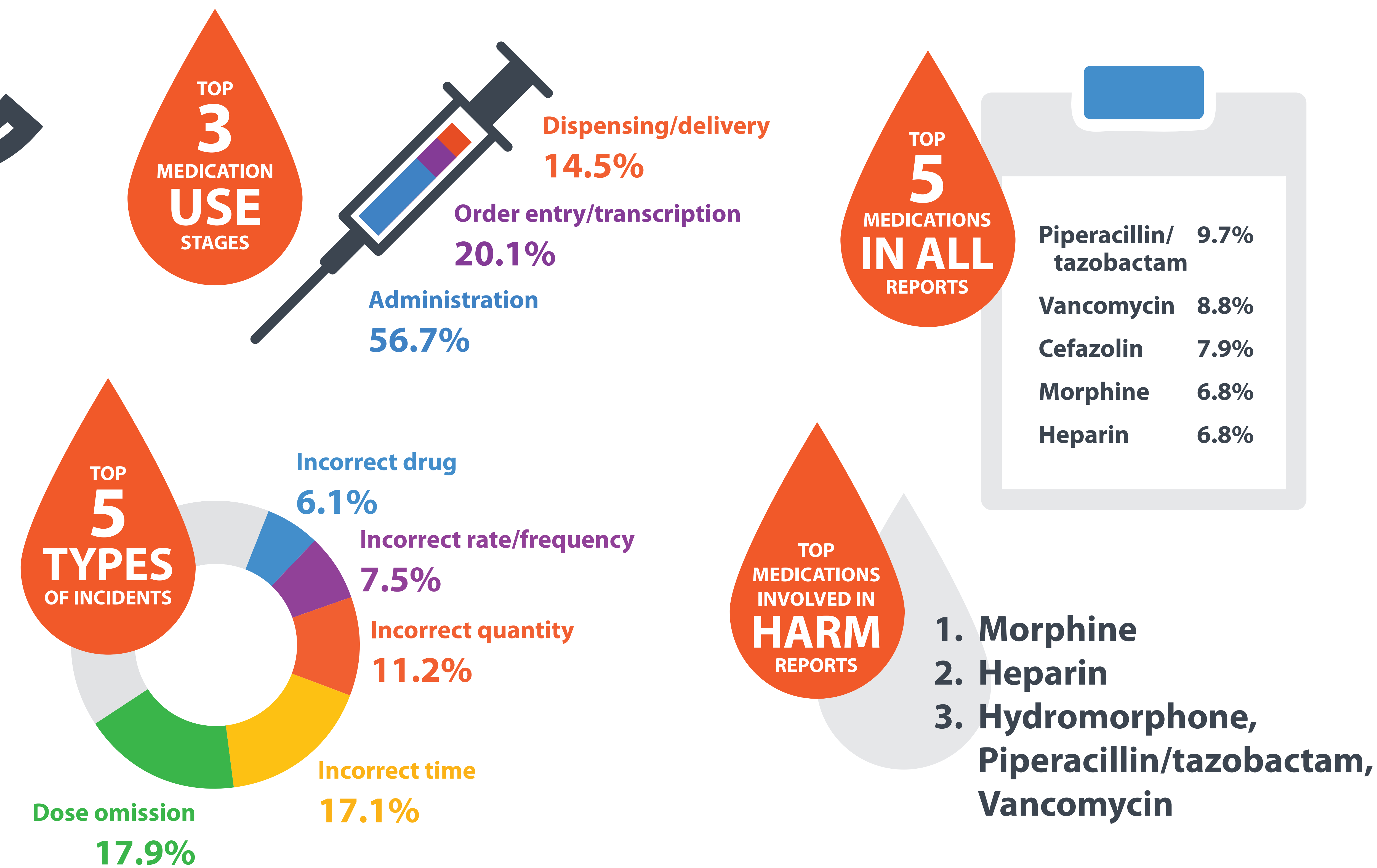
In order to determine future direction of medication safety, an analysis was conducted of IV medication incidents.

### Methods

Using “drip”, “IV”, “intravenous”, “infus\*” as key search terms, the Individual Practitioner Reporting, Community Pharmacy Reporting, and Consumer Reporting databases from ISMP Canada’s holdings and the National System for Incident Reporting<sup>†</sup> database from the Canadian Institute for Health Information were queried for the period from October 2015 to September 2018.

### Results

A total of 2210 reports related to IV medications were returned and total of 1583 reports were used for the quantitative analysis after screening and application of the exclusion criteria.



(Note: “other” category not included)

### Conclusion

Of the top medications involved in harm reports, 3 are known high-alert medications. Their continued presence on this list highlights the need for additional safety strategies. The prominence of antimicrobials amongst the findings may be due to frequency of use but is deserving of further study.

<sup>†</sup>National System for Incident Reporting, Canadian Institute for Health Information, [October 18, 2018]. Parts of this material are based on data and information compiled and provided by CIHI. However, the analyses, conclusions, opinions and statements expressed herein are those of the author, and not necessarily those of CIHI.

**Disclosures:**

Authors of this poster have the following to disclose concerning possible personal or financial relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation:

- Lee C – Nothing to disclose
- Sharma A – Nothing to disclose
- Tscheng D – Nothing to disclose
- Hamilton M – Nothing to disclose
- Watt A – Nothing to disclose
- Riley L – Nothing to disclose
- Kong J – Nothing to disclose
- Hoffman C – Nothing to disclose
- Hyland S – Nothing to disclose