



## Missing of Unit-dose Medications at King Khalid University Hospital Saudi Arabia: a Cross-Sectional Study

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**SUMMARY.** The unit dose drug distribution system at King Khalid University Hospital in the Riyadh region of Saudi Arabia was evaluated for types of missing medications that leads to key problems in medication delivery. A cross sectional study design was used. Overall 783 (6.2%) incidents of missing doses were documented. A high number of missing doses found to be oral medications (66.2%), followed by IV medications (26.8%) and very few missing doses were found to be topical medications (6.9%); there is significant correlation between topical missing medications ( $p$  value < 0.0001), oral, and IV missing medications ( $p$  value < 0.0001). The results of the audit generated several suggestions which may decrease the number of missing doses and further improve drug distribution service.

**RESUMEN.** Se evaluó el sistema de distribución de medicamentos de dosis unitaria en el Hospital de la Universidad Rey Khalid en la región de Riyadh de Arabia Saudita por tipos de medicamentos faltantes, que genera problemas clave en la administración de la medicación. Se utilizó un diseño de estudio transversal. Se documentaron 783 incidentes generales (6,2%) de las dosis faltantes. Se encontró que el mayor número de dosis faltantes corresponden a medicamentos orales (66,2%), seguido de medicamentos intravenosos (26,8%) y muy pocas dosis faltantes de medicamentos tópicos (6,9%); existe una correlación significativa entre los medicamentos faltantes de uso tópico ( $p < 0,0001$ ), por vía oral e IV ( $p < 0,0001$ ). Los resultados de la auditoría generaron varias sugerencias que pueden disminuir el número de dosis faltantes y mejorar el servicio de distribución de drogas.

**KEY WORDS:** drug dispensing, hospital, medications, missing unit dose.

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