



Medication Errors

198,000

dollars is the average cost of insurance claims involving medications omitted or delayed. Claims regarding medications not ordered or ordered in the wrong amount carry an average cost of \$122,700; and claims about adverse drug reactions cost about \$88,000.

(American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, January 2000)

44,000

up to 98,000 deaths are attributed annually to medical errors. A minimum of 7,000 of these deaths are due to prescribing or dispensing errors.

(Institute of Medicine, 1999)

69

percent of medication errors in institutional settings—including assisted living facilities—are caused by communication problems or gaps.

(Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, 2004)

50

percent or more of the two billion prescriptions filled each year are not taken correctly.

(National Council for Patient Information and Education, 2004)

10

percent of hospital admissions are due to medication non-compliance and cost about \$15.2 billion annually.

(Schering Report IX: The Forgetful Patient: The High Cost of Improper Patient Compliance)

11.3

percent of sentinel events in long term care facilities involve medication errors.

(Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, 2004)

250

calls from consumers come into the Consumer Consortium of Assisted Living each month about issues of cost, medication errors, or unexpected discharge of residents.

(CCAL, 2002)