**University of Leicester**

**Future 50 PhD Scholarship**

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| **Project Reference** | HC Wright |

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**Section 2 – *Project Information***

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| **Project Title** | Development of an international standard for observing and capturing medication administration errors in secondary care |
| **Project Highlights:** | 1. | Synthesis of evidence and consensus methodology to inform the design of a medication administration error taxonomy. |
| 2. | Qualitative research to develop a reliable and valid approach for capturing Medication Administration Errors |
| 3. | Creation of internationally recognised research tools and approaches which would underpin future School of Healthcare research, particularly within the nursing program team. |
| **Project Summary**  |
| The World Health Organisation requires medicines related harm to be halved by 2022 (1). It is estimated that in the UK, 66 million potentially clinically significant medication errors occur per year(2) with medication administration errors (MAEs) believed to be the most prevalent. One large-scale study across a number of trusts in the UK identified that 14% of patients experience an MAE every drug round (3).Published research indicates extensive variation in the nature of MAEs and the process for capturing them. There is no standardised international language specifically for describing MAEs or agreement as to what does and doesn’t constitute an MAE. The effect of using a pharmacist, nurse or non-healthcare professional or an internal or independent observer on the validity and reliability of measuring MAEs is equally unknown. The aim of this PhD, therefore, would be to develop an international taxonomy for the description and classification of MAEs and to develop an effective model for their capture.The project will consist of the following four phases:1. Systematic review and narrative synthesis of the literature regarding MAE research within secondary care for the purposes of identifying the range of MAEs reported and processes used for capture.
2. Qualitative work with nurses actively involved in medication administration in secondary care to develop the taxonomy and to agree approaches to their capture considering nature of the observer.
3. Consensus methodology involving international authors identified from the MAE literature to develop an MAE taxonomy.
4. Small scale testing of agreed approaches to MAE observation.

Outputs will include four publications, an international taxonomy for MAEs and a proposed approach for reliable and valid MAE capture.1. World Health Organisation. The third WHO global patient safety challenge: Medication with harm 20172. Elliott R, Camacho E. et al. Prevalence and economic burden of medication errors in the NHS in England: Rapid evidence synthesis and economic analysis of the prevalence and burden of medication error in the UK 2018.3. Kelly J, Wright D, Wood J. Medicine administration errors in patients with dysphagia in secondary care: a multi-centre observational study. J Adv Nurs. 2011 Dec;67(12):2615-27.  |