

**Effect of Nurses' Work Hours and Fatigue on Occurrence of Medication Errors  
in ICU and Medical Oncology Unit –Cairo University  
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**Abstract:** Nurses are responsible for the safety of their patients. So, preventing error and maximizing quality of care for patients requires that those in health care be open to a variety of strategies for modifying work schedules and preventing fatigue that may require changes in long standing behaviors and preferences. **Aim:** To examine the effect of nurses' work hours and fatigue on occurrence of medication errors. **Subject and methods:** An exploratory, descriptive design was utilized to accomplish this study. The sample included all available nurses (n=29) who work in the two medical oncology units and (n=20) nurses work in ICU and conducted at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Cairo- University. Tools for Data Collection were five included Socio demographic data, working hours data sheet, (CIS) chronic fatigue instrument, Need for recovery instrument and Medication errors observational sheet. **Results:** indicated that there was correlation between working hours and fatigue related to physical activity items in both units. There was correlation between medication errors and concentration fatigue subscale, motivation subscale at the ICU unit. Medication preparation errors and concentration fatigue subscale in the medical unit were also correlated. **Conclusion:** This study concluded that there was no statistical significant correlation between working hours and medication errors with both wings of errors preparation and administration. Also, the study concluded that correlation between medication preparation and administration errors and concentration fatigue subscale.

**Keywords:** nurses' work hours, fatigue, medication errors, CCU.