

## **TIP OF THE WEEK # 53**

### **Medication Safety**

According to the Joint Commission's website, "1.5 million preventable adverse drug events happen in the U.S. each year; 400,000 of them occur in hospitals resulting in \$3.5 billion of additional costs.

This issue is not pertinent to the U.S. only. We are exposed to the same set of problems related to the use of medications. How can we improve medication safety?

The latest Joint Commission research indicates that we can significantly lower adverse drug events by using three strategies:

- Identifying high-risk processes
- Identifying errors before they reach the patient
- Developing systems that quickly mitigate the effect of any harm to a patient".