PATIENT’S VOICE FOR MEDICATION SAFETY – A MOTHER’S PERSPECTIVE

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Medication harm is human harm
A case of multiple errors

1. Pre-existing conditions
2. Normalizing the abnormal
3. Communication failures
4. Assumptions may be incorrect
Harm can occur with little warning
Our system fails when

1. There is no reporting
2. There is no learning
3. There are no recommendations for improvements
To create real change

1. Media coverage
2. Public interest and support
3. Political will
What lessons were learned

1. Change the culture
2. Help patients take an active role
3. Report when harm occurs
5 QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT YOUR MEDICATIONS when you see your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

1. CHANGES?
   Have any medications been added, stopped or changed, and why?

2. CONTINUE?
   What medications do I need to keep taking, and why?

3. PROPER USE?
   How do I take my medications, and for how long?

4. MONITOR?
   How will I know if my medication is working, and what side effects do I watch for?

5. FOLLOW-UP?
   Do I need any tests and when do I book my next visit?

Visit safemedicationuse.ca for more information.
They’re not just statistics; they’re people who have been harmed.