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## Exploring Patients' Role in Medication Safety in Africa

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# Exploring Patients' Role in Medication Safety in Africa

## propositions belonging to this dissertation

1. Reporting systems should be established in African countries to enable patients to report adverse drug reactions and medication errors that affect their quality of life. (*Chapter 3*)
2. By comparing patient engagement in pharmacovigilance between high-income countries and Africa, patient engagement in pharmacovigilance in Africa is at its early stages with limited data on patients' contributions to the safety of medicines. (*Chapter 5*)
3. Pharmacovigilance is interconnected with broader societal issues, such as socio-cultural factors, literacy, and language barriers, which influence patient reporting. (*Chapter 3*)
4. Medication errors in Ghanaian children following hospital discharge occur frequently. (*Chapter 4*)
5. Education and awareness campaigns on patient reporting in Africa should emphasize the importance of patients reporting directly to national pharmacovigilance centers. (*Chapter 2*)
6. Enabling patients to report adverse events and participate actively in their healthcare can prevent catastrophic medication harm, especially in high-risk populations like the elderly and those on multiple medications. (*Helen Haskell, patient safety advocate*)
7. Patient reporting without the influence of a healthcare professional is important, as "we know doctors underestimate certain side effects and overestimate others in terms of importance or relevance to a patient". (*Gilly Spurrier-Bernard, patient advocate*)
8. No one is truly safe unless we are all safe. (*Paul Edward Farmer, medical anthropologist and physician*)
9. We reach the top not only through our own efforts, but also because of the good people God places in our path along the journey.
10. Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. (*Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple*)