Rights for Medication Administration

Understanding and knowing the medication administration rights helps to *prevent, minimize and eliminate* medication administration errors

- right patient
- right medication
- right dose
- right time & frequency
- right route
- right documentation
- right to refuse

Additionally, right assessment, diagnosis, planning, intervention, evaluation, patient teaching. The goal is *not* to have a medication error.

Right Patient

Be sure you are administering medication to the **RIGHT PATIENT**

- use two verifies (commonly name and DOB)
- ask the patient their name
- cross check ID band and medication administration record MAR

Error: can deliver medication to the wrong patient!

Right Medication

Be sure you are administering the **RIGHT MEDICATION**

- check and verify the MAR and physician orders
- utilize nursing knowledge
- medication dispenser: often have verification (ie. Omnicell)

Error: can give the wrong medication!

Right Dose

Be sure you are administering the **RIGHT DOSAGE** of medication

- utilize the appropriate calibration measurement tools (syringe, spoon, cup, etc.)
- pay close attention to the dosage listed on the MAR vs. medication
- if needed, perform necessary medication calculation (ie. g, mg, mcg, kg, lbs)

Error: can overdose or underdose patient!

Right Time & Frequency

Be sure to administer the medication at the **RIGHT TIME & FREQUENCY**

- verify this information with MAR and physician orders
- follow the scheduled time and frequency of administration
- medications can be administered within 1 hour before or after of scheduled time

Error: can prevent therapeutic effect for occurring and/or and cause overdose or underdose

RIght Route

Be sure to administer the medication by the **RIGHT ROUTE**

- pay close attention to the route listed of administration
- verify with MAR and physician orders
- can be enteral (PO) or parenteral (IV, IM, SubQ, ID)

Error: can cause overdose, underdose, other complications including absorption

Right Disposal

Be sure to administer the medication and utilize the **RIGHT DISPOSAL**

- medications not taken need to be disposed of properly, according to facility policy
- sharps are to be discarded in sharps container

Error: needle sticks can occur and misuse of medication due to inaccurate disposal

Right Documentation

Be sure that immediately after administration of the medication you use the **RIGHT DOCUMENTATION**

- document accurately and appropriately
- only document what *you* did

-IF IT WASN'T DOCUMENTED, IT DIDN'T HAPPEN!!!!!

Error: inaccurate documentation and lack of documentation can result in duplication of medication administration

Right to Refuse

Be sure that you understand the patient always has the **RIGHT TO REFUSE**

- all patients have the right to refuse medication, with exceptions
- be sure to notify physician
- document appropriately

Error: violation of patient autonomy

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