

Medication Administration Protocols

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1. Introduction

- Medication administration protocols ensure drugs are given safely, accurately, and legally.
- Errors can cause serious harm, so strict checks are essential.

2. The Rights of Administration

- **Right patient, drug, dose, route, and time:** the core five rights checked before giving any medicine.
- Additional rights include right documentation, reason, and response.
- Identity is confirmed using the wristband and patient details.

3. Prescription and Verification

- A valid, legible prescription from an authorised prescriber is required.
- Nurses check the drug against the chart, allergies, and expiry date.
- Independent double-checks are used for high-risk medicines.

4. Safe Practice

- **Controlled drugs:** require secure storage and witnessed recording.
- Calculate doses carefully, especially for paediatric and IV medicines.
- Monitor the patient for therapeutic effects and adverse reactions.

5. Documentation and Accountability

- Record drug, dose, time, route, and signature immediately after giving.
- Report and document omissions, refusals, and errors honestly.
- Adherence protects patients and meets legal and professional standards.