

**ADMINISTRATION
OF
MEDICATION**



Medication order

The drug order, written by the physician, should have 7 essential parts for administration of drugs safely.

1. Patient's full name.
2. Date and time.
3. Drug name.
4. Dosage.
5. Route of administration.
6. Time and frequency of administration.
7. Signature of physician.



Types of Medication Orders

Four types of medication orders commonly used are:

1. Stat order: A stat order indicates that the medication is to be given immediately and only once. e.g: morphine sulfate 10 milligrams IV stat.

2. Single order: The single order or one-time order indicates that the medication is to be given once at a specified time. e.g: Seconal 100 milligrams at bedtime.



Types of Medication Orders

3. Standing order: Standing order is written in Advance, carried out under specific circumstances. (e.g: Tab. Amox twice daily \times 2 days)

4. PRN order: “PRN” is a Latin term that stands for “pro re nata,” which means “as the thing is needed.” A PRN order or *as-needed order*, permits the nurse to give a medication when the client requires it. (e.g., Amphojel 15 mL prn)



Types of Medication Orders

Terminologies and abbreviations used in prescriptions of medications



Types of Medication Orders

Abbreviations & Meaning

- **STAT order:** refers to any medication that is needed immediately and is to be given only once often associated with emergency medications that are needed for life threatening situations comes from the latin word "statim" meaning immediately should be administered within 5 minutes or less of receiving the written order.
- **ASAP order:** not as urgent as STAT, as soon as possible, should be available for administration to the patient within 30 minutes of the written order.
- **Single order:** for a drug that is to be given only once, and at a specific time, such as a preoperative order.
- **PRN order:** latin meaning "pro re nata", administered as required by the patient's condition, the nurse makes the judgement, based on patient, assessment, as to when such a medication is to be administered.

Types of Medication Orders

Abbreviations & Meaning

- **Routine orders:** orders not written as STAT, ASAP, NOW or PRN, these are usually carried out within 2 hours of the time the order is written by the physician.
- **Standing order:** written in advance of a situation that is to be carried out under specific circumstances. example: set of postoperative PRN prescriptions that are written for all patients who have undergone a specific surgical procedure. e.g: "Tylenol elixir 325mg, PO every 6 hours". Standing orders are no longer permitted in some facilities because of the legal implications of putting all patients into a single treatment category
- **AC:** before meals.
- **AM:** morning.
- **BID:** twice per day
- **Cap:** capsule.

Types of Medication Orders

Abbreviations & Meaning

- **Gtt:** drops
- **h or hr:** hours
- **IM:** intramuscular
- **IV:** intravenous
- **No:** number
- **Pc:** after meals, after eating
- **PO:** by mouth
- **PM:** afternoon
- **PRN:** when needed/necessary



Types of Medication Orders

Abbreviations & Meaning

- **Qid:** four times per day.
- **q2h, q4h, q6h,, q8h, q12h:** every ___ hours
- **Rx:** take
- **STAT:** immediately, at once
- **Tid:** three times per day
- **ad lib:** as desired, as directed
- **Tab:** tablet



Drug forms

Medications are available in variety of forms. The form of the medication determines its route of administration.



Drug forms

Drug forms can be of three types;

- ❖ Solid eg: tablet, capsule
- ❖ Liquid eg: syrup, eye drops
- ❖ Semi solid eg: ointment, lotion.



Drug forms

- **Tablet:** It is the powdered medication compressed into hard disk or cylinder.
- **Capsule:** Medication covered in gelatin shell.
- **Gel or jelly:** A clear or translucent semisolid that liquefies when applied to the skin.



Drug forms

- **Lozenge:** A flat, round, or oval preparation that dissolves and releases a drug when held in the mouth.
- **Lotion:** Drug particles in a Solution for topical use.
- **Ointment:** Semisolid preparation containing a drug to be applied externally.



Drug forms

- **Powder:** Single or mixture of finely ground drugs.
- **Solution:** A drug dissolved in another substance.
- **Suspension:** Finely divided, undissolved particles in a liquid medium; should be shaken before use.



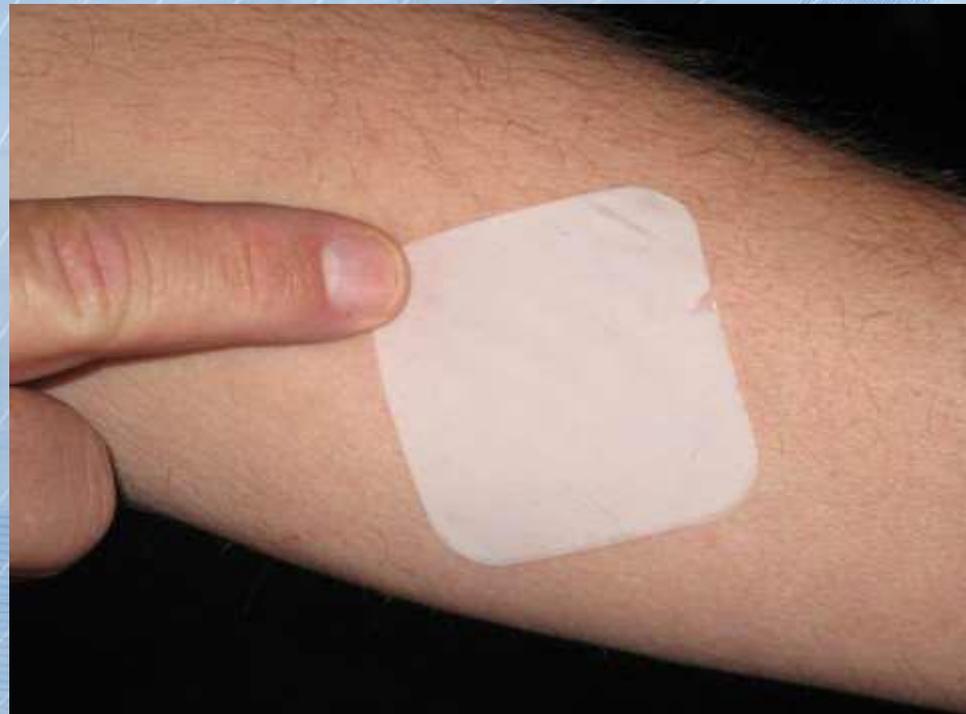
Drug forms

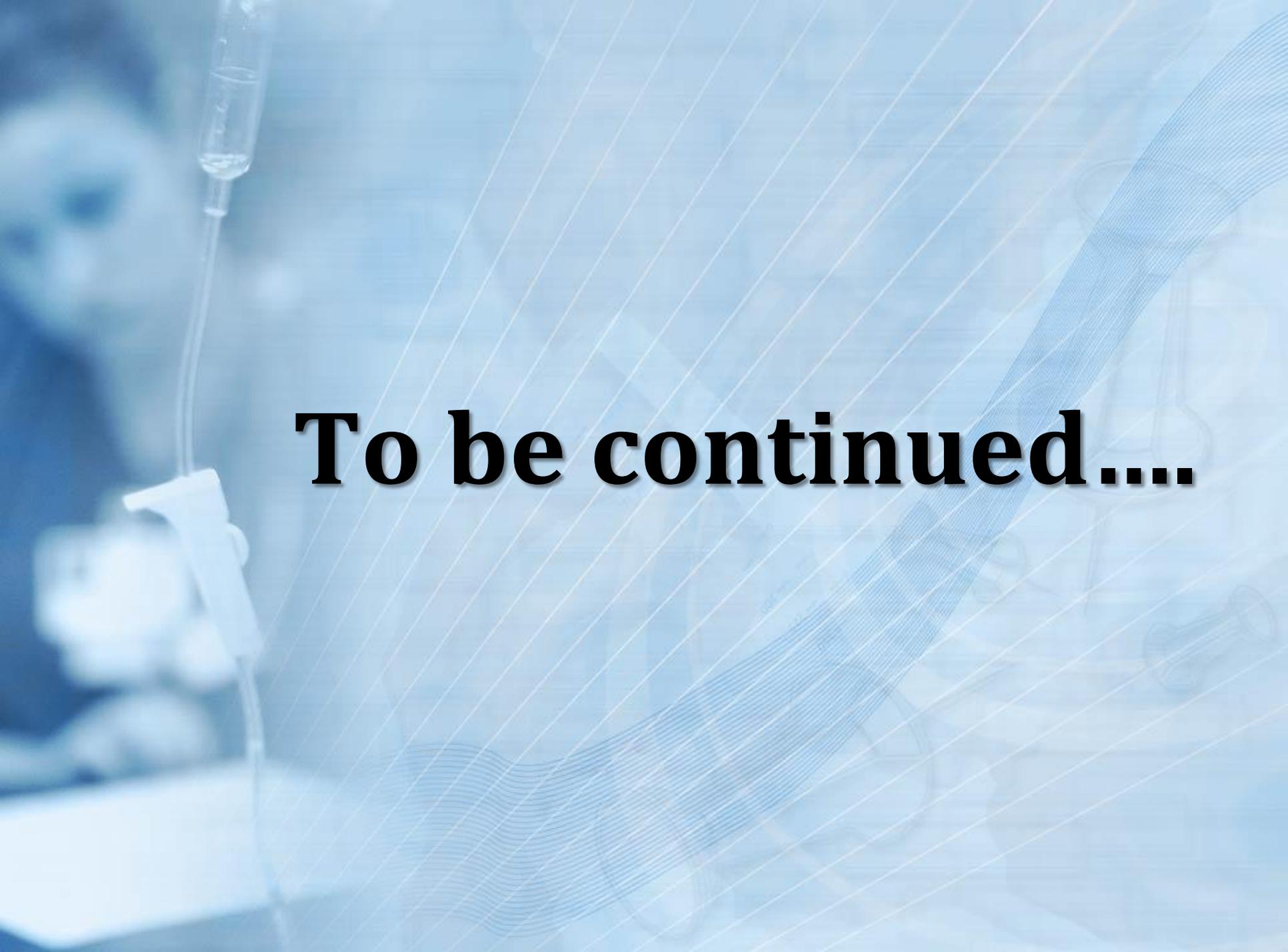
- **Syrup:** Medication combined in a water and sugar solution.
- **Suppository:** An easily melted medication preparation in a firm base such as gelatin that is inserted into the body (rectum, vagina, urethra)



Drug forms

Transdermal patch: Unit dose of medication applied directly to skin for diffusion through skin and absorption into the bloodstream.





To be continued....