

**ADMINISTRATION
OF
MEDICATION**



INTRODUCTION

A **medication** is a substance administered for the diagnosis, cure, treatment, or relief of a symptom or for prevention of disease.

Pharmacology is the study of the effect of drugs on living organisms.

The written direction for the preparation and administration of a drug is called a **prescription**.



PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Drugs can be administered for these purposes:

Diagnostic purpose: to identify any disease

Prophylaxis: to prevent the occurrence of disease.
eg:- heparin to prevent thrombosis or antibiotics to prevent infection.

Therapeutic purpose : to cure the disease.



USES OF DRUGS

Prevention- used as prophylaxis to prevent diseases. e.g: vaccines; fluoride-prevents tooth decay.



Diagnosis- establishing the patient's disease or problem e.g: radio contrast dye; tuberculosis (Mantoux) testing.

Suppression- suppresses the signs and symptoms and prevents the disease process from progressing. e.g: anticancer, antiviral drugs.



USES OF DRUGS

Treatment- alleviate the symptoms for patients with chronic disease.
e.g. Antiasthmatic drugs.

Cure- complete eradication of diseases e.g. anti-biotics, anti-helmintics.

Enhancement aspects of health- achieve the best state of health e.g. vitamins & minerals



PRINCIPLES OF MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Principles include 3 checks and 10 Rights: 3 checks are

1. Check when obtaining the container of medicine.
2. Check when removing the medicine from the container.
3. Check when replacing the container.



Rights of Medication Administration

Medication errors can be detrimental to patients. To prevent these errors, these guidelines are (the rights) are used in drug administration.

1. Right Patient:

Correct identification of the client cannot be over emphasized. This can be done by asking the client to mention his/her full name which should be compared with that on the identification bracelet or the patient's folder and medication/treatment chart for confirmation.



Rights of Medication Administration

2. Right Medication:

Beware of same and similar first and surnames to prevent the error of administering one person's medication to another and vice versa.

Before administering any medicine, compare name on medication chart with that on the medication at least 3 times.

Checking medication label when removing it from storage unit.

Compare medication label with that on treatment chart and medication label and name on treatment chart with patient's name tag.



Rights of Medication Administration

3. Right Time:

Drug timing is very important especially with some drugs like antibiotics, antimalarial drugs etc, to achieve cure and prevents resistance. Some drugs must be given on empty stomach. e.g: antituberculosis drugs; and some after meals. e.g: NSAIDS-these must be noted and adhered to.

The interval of administration of drugs should also be adhered to because it is important for many drugs that the blood concentration is not allowed to fall below a given level and for others two successive doses closer than prescribed might increase blood concentration to a dangerous level that can harm the patient.

Rights of Medication Administration

4. Right Dose:

This becomes very important when medications at hand are in a larger volume or strength than the prescribed order given or when the unit of measurement in the order is different from that supplied from the pharmacy. Careful and correct calculation is important to prevent over or under dosage of the medication.



Rights of Medication Administration

5. Right Route:

An acceptable medication order must specify the route of medication. If this is unclear, the prescriber should be contacted to clarify or specify it. The nurse should never decide on a route without consulting the prescriber.



Rights of Medication Administration

6. Right to information on drug/client education

The patient has the right to know the drug he/she is taking, desired and adverse effects and all there is to know about the medication. The nurse should explain & made this clear.



Rights of Medication Administration

7. Right to Refuse Medication:

The patient has the right to refuse any medication. However, the nurse is obliged to explain to patients why the drug is prescribed and the consequences of refusing medication.



Rights of Medication Administration

8. Right Assessment:

Some medications require specific assessment before their administration, e.g.: checking of vital signs. Before a medication like Digoxin is administered the pulse must be checked. Some medication orders may contain specific assessments to be done prior to medication



Rights of Medication Administration

9. Right Documentation:

Documentation should be done after medication and not before.



Rights of Medication Administration

10. Right Evaluation:

Conduct assessment to ascertain drug action, both desired and side effect.





To be continued....