Administer and monitor medications in the work environment
Acknowledgments

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Section 1 Legalities of medication administration

Administering medications is just one of the many complex tasks a nurse needs to accomplish during the course of a shift. It requires knowledge of the actions, uses, therapeutic and adverse reactions that occur with drug use. It is an integral part of many client's treatment and offers the nurse an opportunity to increase knowledge and skill and to observe the effects of various medications on disease processes as well as to educate clients in the effective use of their medications.

To ensure the safety of clients, the nurse needs to be aware of the legal aspects of drug administration. This includes the laws governing possession, use and dispensing of drugs. The role of the Australian government in regulation of the pharmaceutical industry is to protect the health of the public by ensuring that medications are safe and effective.

Use your medication textbook or other nursing text to complete the following activities and answer the subsequent questions.

Activity 1

The following questions relate to medication legislation and standards:

1. What does the NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 regulate?
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

2. What is the purpose of the NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulations 2008?
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

3. What is the role of the poisons list?
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
Activity 1 (continued)

4. Identify the schedules of drugs relevant to nursing practice

________________________________

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________________________________

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________________________________

5. List examples of drugs in each of the schedules that may be administered by an enrolled nurse.

________________________________

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________________________________

________________________________

6. Differentiate between the role of the Enrolled/Division 2 nurse and the registered nurse in administering medications
   Registered nurse competencies:

________________________________

________________________________

   Enrolled nurse competencies:

________________________________

________________________________
Medications that have been ordered for a specific client must be administered to that client only. The nurse has an ethical responsibility to ensure that this occurs. One means of making certain of this is to check a client’s identification.

**Activity 2**

List what you would check when performing a client identification check.

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**Documentation**

Accurate and timely documentation is an important part of complying with the legalities of medication administration. It acts as a safe guard when administering medications and could prevent a medication from being administered more than once. It is a useful tool to have knowledge of the adverse effects of any medication you are administering. The medication chart should be signed as soon as the medication has been administered, to avoid duplication and to identify who has administered the medication.

The NSW Ministry of Health have noted that there have been a number of incidents resulting in serious injury where doses of oral liquid medicines have been administered parenterally.

These incidents have occurred through the use of parenteral syringes to prepare liquid medicine doses resulting in inadvertent administration of the dose via the incorrect route. The outcomes of this type of incident may be catastrophic and can be fatal.

NSW Ministry of Health have released mandatory requirements in relation to Policy PD2012_006 Safe Administration of Liquid Medicines by Routes other than injection.
Mandatory requirements

- Oral/enteral dispensers (also called oral/enteral syringes) or graduated medicine cups are to be used to prepare, measure and administer all liquid doses intended for:
  - Oral and enteral use
  - Inhalational, intranasal, topical, or rectal use where measurement of volume is required
  - Injectable medicines intentionally prescribed for non-parenteral use
- Devices used for withdrawing liquid medicine doses intended for non-parenteral use from their container must have connections compatible with the oral/enteral dispensers
- Enteral feeding catheters, both nasogastric and percutaneous must have connections compatible with the oral/enteral dispensers in use.
- **No device** intended for access to the gastrointestinal tract should feature a female Luer® connector (Luer-Lok® or Luer-Slip®).
Activity 3

1. Why should a medication always be charted after it has been given?
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

2. What procedure should be followed when a client refuses a medication ordered for them?
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

List the components of a medication order that should be filled out to make it ___
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

3. When should a medication incident be recorded and sent to the risk management coordinator?
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

5. Define a medication incident.
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
Part of medication administration is checking that the medication that is ordered is the medication that is administered. When schedule 4 and schedule 8 drugs are administered, more stringent checking is required as these may be drugs of restriction and addiction (Refer to the poisons list).

**Activity 3 (continued)**

6. What should be involved in a medication incident protocol?

7. How would you define a near miss?

8. How would you define a sentinel event?

SAMPLE
Activity 4

1. What should you remember when checking an S4D or S8 medication with a registered nurse?
   ORDER IS VALID

2. List the SIX (6) rights of medication administration