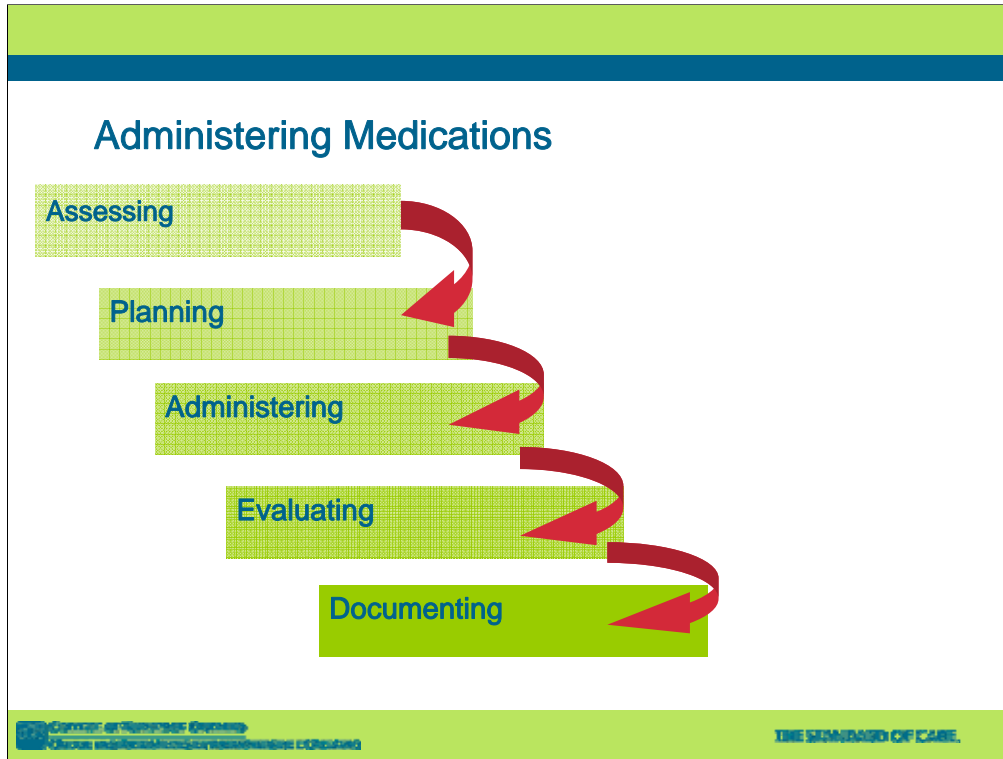




The College of Nurses of Ontario presents *Medication Practice Standard: Medication Administration*



Administering medication is a continual process that goes beyond the task of simply giving medication to a client. The nurse must apply her or his knowledge about the client and the medication when assessing, planning, administering, evaluating and documenting the process.

By performing the administration steps, the nurse minimizes the possibility of error and clarifies individual accountability.

Steps for assessing and planning include:

- assessing client and context;
- determining any allergies sensitivities/ adverse reactions;
- calculating accurately;
- ensuring proper storage and labelling;
- obtaining client consent; and
- checking order for accuracy.



Click here to access [Medication practice standard pages 7 and 8](#)

College of Registered Nurses
Nurses' professional responsibilities and standards (2018)

THE STANDARD OF CARE.

To reduce the risk of error and adverse effects, a nurse must apply knowledge about the client and the medication. Prior to the administration of medications, nurses assess the client and the appropriateness of the prescribed medication in their particular situation. Nurses should consider the client's age, weight, vital signs and laboratory results. In addition, nurses check for: allergies, sensitivities, previous adverse reactions, possible interactions with other medication and any foods that are contraindicated or decrease absorption.

Client safety and well-being is ensured by accurately calculating fractional amounts and correctly combining two or more substances. Confirming the medications have been stored appropriately and are correctly labelled once they are reconstituted or mixed is equally important. Nurses are also expected to verify that informed consent has been obtained from the client or client's substitute decision-maker before administering the first dose or changing the drug therapy. Clients can withdraw consent at any time.

Nurses' primary responsibility is their clients' safety and well-being. Nurses should follow up with the prescriber if the order is inappropriate, unclear or incomplete. At times, nurses may disagree with specific medication orders. The *Medication* practice standard outlines steps nurses should take when they disagree with the order of another care provider. To access this information click on the link in the slide and read pages 7 and 8.

Nurses may be responsible for administering medications to a large number of clients during a shift.

When there are a large number of medications to be administered, does the nurse need to know about all of them?

A) Yes

B) No

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Use your mouse to click on the circle beside the correct answer.

Question Discussion

In order to safely administer a medication, and evaluate its appropriateness and effectiveness, a nurse needs sufficient knowledge about it.

Safe medication administration practice also includes knowing the client's allergies, the expected benefits, potential risks and side effects of a medication, and possible food and medication interactions.

In order to safely administer a medication, and evaluate its appropriateness and effectiveness, a nurse needs sufficient knowledge about it. Safe medication administration practice also includes knowing the client's allergies, expected benefits and the potential risks and side effects of a medication as well as possible food and medication interactions.

A nurse must assess the appropriateness and the effectiveness of a medication for each client. Nurses are accountable for consulting with the prescriber of a medication if they have questions or concerns about administering it.

Question Discussion

One option to address this issue and help ensure safe medication administration is for the nurse to learn about the frequently prescribed medications for the specific population. Once this background knowledge has been obtained, the time a nurse spends referring to pharmacology reference books may decrease. The nurse could ask the manager for support in meeting these standards by providing easy access to pharmacology materials and offering learning opportunities on new medications.

The College of Nurses of Ontario also recommends that medication systems and practices be developed with nursing staff input. With nurse involvement, the planning will reflect the realities of the practice setting and facilitate and support efficient care delivery.

To reduce medication errors, nurses are expected to follow the five rights of medication administration.

Name the five rights for medication administration.

The five rights consist of five factors to consider while administering medication. Following the “five rights” can reduce medication errors. Can you name them? On a piece of paper or in the slide, list the five rights.

The five rights are:

- right drug;
- right client;
- right dose;
- right route; and
- right time.

Did you correctly recall the five rights?

Compare your response to the question. During medication administration, nurses meet the standard by ensuring they administer the right drug to the right client in the right dose by the right route at the right time.

Medication Administration

Your score	{score}
Max score	{max-score}
Number of quiz attempts	{total-attempts}

Steps in medication administration includes:

- using aseptic technique;
- preparing and administering according to the practice setting system;
- administering in a timely fashion; and
- monitoring the client.



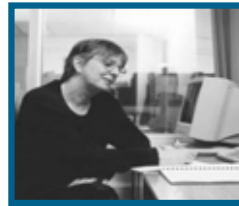
During medication administration, a nurse meets the standard by: applying principles of aseptic techniques; and preparing and administering medication according to the practice setting medication administration system.

Nurses are expected to administer medications in a timely fashion, considering the nature of the medication, the action and the client's condition. The College does not specify a time frame for when medication must be administered; however, nurses should consult their practice setting policies and government guidelines that may require a specific time frame.

Appropriate monitoring while administering the medication, and intervening if necessary, are also required.

Elements of evaluating and documenting includes:

- evaluating and document outcome;
- documenting during or after administration; and
- advocating for regular dosing when PRN medications are consistently used.



Click here to access [Documentation practice standard](#)

Nurses evaluate client outcomes including benefits, side effects and signs of drug interactions. In addition, nurses must fully document the outcomes in accordance with the *Documentation* practice standard.

When a nurse administers a PRN medication, they should document the reason for giving the medication and the effectiveness of the medication. In addition, nurses must advocate for regular dosing when PRN use exhibits a consistent need.

Additional Learning Modules

- Prescribing and Communicating Orders
- Dispensing and Repackaging
- Medication Errors
- Medication Administration
- Special Considerations
 - Allergy and Immunizing agents
 - Investigational Medications and Placebos
 - Sedations



Applying the five rights and following a continuous process of assessing, planning, administering, evaluating and documenting is only part of the nursing role outlined in the *Medication* practice standard.

The *Medication* practice standard focuses on other topics and answers the following questions: Who can prescribe and communicate orders? What is the difference between dispensing and repacking medications? What key factors reduce medication errors; and What is a nurse's responsibility when error occurs?

The *Medication* practice standard outlines the nursing role and responsibility when administering medications, including investigation medication and placebos, and allergy, immunizing agents and sedations.

To view a presentation on one of these topics, close the presentation, return to the Learning Centre, and then select the chapter of your choice.

To ask a College Practice Consultant a question, click on the word Contact in the top right-hand corner of this screen.