

10 Rights in medication administration

Be sure to consider all 10 Rights before starting the medication process



Right client

Verify the identity of the client by asking the client to identify themselves (name, social security number) and/or use the client's ID wristband.



Right medication

Be aware that the medication prescribed is the medication dispensed. Be aware of allergies. Ask the client about previous side effects to the medication.



Right indication (reason)

Be aware of the indication for the use of the medication and check with the client when possible. Be aware that indications might change over time.



Right dose

Be sure to administer the dose prescribed and be aware that the dose is within the allowed range and appears reasonable.



Right time

Be sure to administer medications on the prescribed times. Be aware of time periods between doses and the interactions with other medications, food, and drink for optimal effect. Be aware of required time for preparation of medication. Be sure to administer medications at the right rate.

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Right form

Be sure to administer the medication in the right form appropriate for the route of administration.



Right route

Be sure to administer the medication via the right route using the correct equipment. Be aware of absorption time and onset of effect, given the administration route.



Right client education/information

Provide medication education and information based on the client's individual needs (consider relatives as a source of help and recipients of education/information). Check the client's or relatives understanding and ability to administer the medicine if appropriate.



Right documentation

Be sure to sign for the administration of medications (should include name, dose, time, route, and indication) and with correct follow-up. In the event of medication "as needed" be sure to also document observations, the client's statements and the effect achieved.



Right follow-up

Be aware of the medications' effect and consequences for the client including side effects. Plan the relevant monitoring of the client.