

“Principles of Medication Administration” *OUTLINE*

I. MEDICATION OBSERVATION INCLUDED IN SURVEY PROCESS

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SAFE AND ACCURATE MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

A. Be Prepared Prior to Starting the Med Pass

- B. Wash Hands According to Facility Policy and Procedures
- C. Avoid Interruptions During the Med Pass
- D. Always Respect the Patient’s Right to Privacy
- E. Follow Your Facility Policy for Taking Vital Signs
- F. Check Labeled Directions Against the MAR Prior to Giving Med
- G. Crush Only Those Meds That Can Be Crushed (**Refer to ”Do Not Crush Medication List”.**)

NOTE: Documentation Required for Exceptions to the “Do Not Crush rule:

- H. Pour Liquid Medications at Eye Level
- I. Be Aware of Safety and Security Measure
- J. Identify Patients Per Facility Policy and Procedure

K. Routine Med Passes Should Not Be Conducted in Dining Rooms

III. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES REQUIRED FOR SAFE AND ACCURATE MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

A. Know Your Medications and Their Side Effects

B. Administer Medication with Adequate Fluid.

C. Medications via Feeding Tubes

- 1. Flushing Between Medications*
- 2. Administer Liquid Formulations When Possible*
- 3. Dilantin (phenytoin)*

**I. MEDICATION OBSERVATION INCLUDED IN SURVEY
PROCESS**

**II. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SAFE AND ACCURATE
MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION**

A. Be Prepared Prior to Starting the Med Pass

G. Wash Hands According to Facility Policy and Procedures

H. Avoid Interruptions During the Med Pass

I. Always Respect the Patient's Right to Privacy

J. Follow Your Facility Policy for Taking Vital Signs

K. Check Labeled Directions Against the MAR Prior to Giving Med

G. Crush Only Those Meds That Can Be Crushed (**Refer to "Do Not
Crush Medication List".**)

*NOTE: Documentation Required for Exceptions to the "Do Not Crush"
rule:*

H. Pour Liquid Medications at Eye Level

I. Be Aware of Safety and Security Measures

J. Identify Patients Per Facility Policy and Procedure

K. Routine Med Passes Should Not Be Conducted in Dining Rooms

III. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES REQUIRED FOR SAFE AND ACCURATE MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

A. Know Your Medications and Their Side Effects

B. Administer Medication with Adequate Fluid.

C. Medications via Feeding Tubes

- 1. Flushing Between Medications*
- 2. Administer Liquid Formulations When Possible*
- 3. Dilantin (phenytoin)*

Note: Dilantin is an example of a narrow therapeutic index (NTI) drug. Refer to Appendix C, page 1, IIIb.

Other Drug/enteral feeding interactions include:

- a. Theophyllin, absorption is decreased by 60% - 70%*
- b. Sucralfate, binds to the protein in the feeding*
- c. Ciprofloxacin, absorption decreased by 25%, and chelation occurs with ions in tap water*

D. General Considerations for Administration of Ophthalmic Prep

E. Timoptic XE

NOTE: *Additional considerations for administration of ophthalmics include the following:*

- ◆ *Pilopine HS - ophthalmic gel; administer at least 5 minutes after the use of other eye drops.*
- ◆ *Trusopt - Administer 10 minutes apart from any other ophthalmic drug.*
- ◆ *Never use past expiration dates or if solution changes color or becomes cloudy.*

(Refer to Appendix B for recommended “Eye Drop Administration Procedures.”)

F. Eye Ointments *(Refer to Appendix B for recommended “Eye Ointment Administration Procedures.”)*

G. Insulin *(Refer to Appendix B for recommended “Insulin Administration Procedures.”)*

H. Medicated Patches *(Refer to Appendix B for recommended “Transdermal Patch Administration Procedures.”)*

I. Inhalers *(Refer to Appendix B for recommended “Metered Dose Inhaler Administration Procedures.”)*

J. Sequence of Inhaler Administration

- ◆ Bronchodilators are given first.
- ◆ Bronchospasms/anticholinergics are given second.
- ◆ Steroid inhaler is always given last and never on a PRN basis.

K. Assess the Patient During the Med Pass

L. Medication Refusal

M. Procedures for Completion of the Med Pass

N. Medication Error Reporting and Monitoring

(Refer to Appendix E for “Checkpoints to Prevent Medication Errors”)

IV. SUMMARY

Please share the information included in this program with all who administer medications to increase awareness of errors that can occur during the med pass and how to prevent them. Safe and accurate drug administration requires proficiency with administration techniques and assessment skills, knowledge of the drugs, and implementation of your facility policies and procedures.

Guidelines for the medication pass are included with this program. Use the guidelines as an observation/teaching tool and include it in your new nurse orientation. Whenever medications are prescribed, proper administration and side effect monitoring are essential to good patient care and the

achievement of therapeutic goals. Improving the quality of life of an individual unable to care for themselves is the most important nursing responsibility in any long-term care facility.