

Errata

ISBN: 978-1-76059-893-8

Unit: HLTHPS006 Assist clients with medication

Resource: Learner Guide

Update: Version 1.4 updated to Version 1.5

Affected pages: 70-72

Use the attached pages to update the affected document.

3C Make checks to ensure correct person, medication, time, amount and route

Using the 'rights' formula has become a standard and effective way to help you to remember each important check that should be made. These are used to decrease the likelihood of a mistake. If you remember this formula every time you are assisting with medication, the chances of making a mistake will be greatly reduced.

Some organisations use five rights, and others use nine. Remember, you have authority as an assistant; if in doubt, speak to your supervisor.

Always check with your supervisor if you don't understand anything or need to clarify an instruction. The Five Rs are outlined in more detail here.

The 'rights'	Explanation
The right person	Check that you are assisting the right person by looking at the photo by the DAA; you can also confirm their name by asking them or by looking at their identification bracelet.
The right medication	Check that you are assisting with the correct medication. Read the labels on bottles, and ensure that the name of the medication matches that on the order.
The right time	Check that the medication is being administered at the correct time. The time will be clearly written on the medication chart and DAA. Some medications have side effects like sleepiness or dizziness, which means they may only be given at night. Other medications must be taken before or with food. When a person is self-administering, they may need to be reminded and prompted. Encourage them to develop a routine and to use lists
The right route	<p>Check that the medication is being administered via the correct route; for example, orally (via the mouth), sublingually (under the tongue), nasally (into the nose), ocularly (into the eyes), topically (onto the skin), rectally (into the anus), vaginally (into the vagina).</p> <p>The medication chart or label will explain how the medication is to be administered.</p> <p>Sometimes, the instructions will be in an abbreviated form that your supervisor may need to explain to you.</p>
The right dose	<p>Where there is a dosage documented (e.g., for powders, inhalants, creams, etc.), check that you are assisting with the correct dosage.</p> <p>Drugs will only be effective if the correct dosage is given. If, for some reason, you find it hard to read the medication chart, do not proceed. Contact your supervisor, the doctor or the pharmacist.</p> <p>If you are helping to pour a liquid, use a measuring cup with clear indications on the sides, and measure the dose in millilitres (unless an alternative measurement is specified).</p>

The additional 4 rights are listed below:

The right of the client to refuse	The client/patient has the right to say they do not want to take their medications. This is their right, but you must document it and notify your supervisor/the nurse in charge as per the policy and procedures related to assisting with medications.
The right of the client/patient to know what the drug is for	The client/patient has the right to understand what they are being given. If you do not know what is being administered, tell them you will find out from your supervisor/the nurse in charge. Otherwise, have somebody more knowledgeable come and explain.
The right documentation	You must document that you have assisted with medication on the medication administration record/chart, and (as per policies and procedures) on the support/support plan and/or progress notes.
The right drug preparation	You must be sure that the medication is administered after being prepared the correct way. For instance, some pills have an enteric coating on them that ensures a slow release of the drug. These cannot be crushed or cut.

Assist with PRN medication

PRN stands for the Latin term ‘pro re nata’, which means ‘as required’. Medication prescribed as PRN should only be given on an ‘as needed’ basis; that is, only in circumstances as directed by a doctor and pharmacist and in accordance with organisational procedures. Check to make sure there are clear directions from the doctor on PRN medication. Do not exceed the amount of medication indicated in the order.



Example

Medication order specifies correct information

Here is an example of a medication order. The last column requires a signature or initials of the person who gave or assisted with the medication.

Time	Medication	Dose	Route	Signed
0800	Panadeine	li	Oral	RT
0800	Lactulose syrup	10 mls	Oral	GS
1200 (midday)	Cortisone cream 5mg	Apply sparingly	Topical to affected areas	AE

Practice task 14

1. List the Nine Rs.

2. How do you ensure you have the right time?

3. Can you give a person as much medication from a PRN order as they need?
