

Chapter 3. Patient Safety in Medication Administration

Multiple Choice

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- _____ 1. The student nurse is preparing to provide medications to a client scheduled to receive lisinopril (Zestril) 10 mg PO daily and ofloxacin (Floxin) 2 drops o.s. three times daily. Which of the following actions by the student is best?
- A. Provide the lisinopril by mouth and the ofloxacin into the right ear.
 - B. Provide the lisinopril into the right ear and the ofloxacin into the right eye.
 - C. Provide the lisinopril into the left ear and the ofloxacin orally.
 - D. Provide the lisinopril orally and the ofloxacin into the left eye.
- _____ 2. When providing medications from floor stock to a client on the Alzheimer's unit of a long-term-care facility, the nurse demonstrates the principle of right drug by which of the following?
- A. Checks the label before taking the medication out of the cabinet, checks the label before pouring the medication, checks the label before placing the bottle back in the cabinet
 - B. Checks the label before taking the medication out of the cabinet, checks the label before pouring the medication, checks the label before leaving the medication room
 - C. Checks the label after removing the bottle from the cabinet, checks the label after pouring the dose of medication, checks the label before closing the cabinet door
 - D. Checks the label while removing the bottle from the cabinet, checks the label after pouring the dose of medication, checks the label while replacing the bottle in the cabinet
- _____ 3. The nurse is preparing to discharge a client originally admitted for community-acquired pneumonia who has a discharge prescription for cefditoren (Spectracef). Which of the following instructions would the nurse include in the discharge teaching?
- A. "Be sure to take the medication until your cough is gone."
 - B. "It is important that you take the medication with meals."
 - C. "Taking the medication at set time intervals will help blood levels stay constant."
 - D. "Keeping the medication on the counter top will help you remember to take it."
- _____ 4. While working in an urgent care center, the nurse assists in the care of a client with allergic rhinitis who has been given a prescription for beclomethasone nasal spray (Beconase), 2 sprays in each nostril 2 to 4 times daily. The nurse would provide further instruction to which of the following client statements?
- A. "This will help my nose to not run so constantly."
 - B. "I should spray this in each nostril whenever my nose starts to drip."
 - C. "I can use this before I go to work, midday, and again at bedtime."
 - D. "This medication is a mild steroid and will reduce swelling and irritation of my nasal passages."

- _____ 5. The nurse is conducting a home visit for a 43-year-old client. The client, who has three children under the age of 12, is 3 days post-mastectomy. The nurse would be most concerned by which of the following?
- A. The client has a calendar for appointments and a list with physician contact information by the phone.
 - B. The client keeps her medications in a daily pill box that sits on the kitchen windowsill.
 - C. The client reports that it was too uncomfortable to wear the temporary prosthesis she had been given.
 - D. The children are participating in a support group for family members of people with cancer.
- _____ 6. The nurse is providing medications to a client with a gastrostomy tube. Diclofenac (Cambia) has been ordered. Prior to administration, the nurse should take which of the following actions?
- A. Ensure that the medication comes as a liquid preparation.
 - B. Obtain a 3-mL syringe and needle with a safety device.
 - C. Document the medication provision.
 - D. Ask the client to state her name and room number.
- _____ 7. A nurse on the pediatric unit is preparing to pass medications for a 10-year-old client with exacerbation of asthma. Amphetamine (Adderall) and fluticasone (Advair) are scheduled. The nurse must be aware of which of the following?
- A. Adderall and Advair should not be given at the same time.
 - B. Adderall is used to reduce bronchospasms.
 - C. Advair must be given with food.
 - D. Adderall and Advair each have look-alike/sound-alike medications.
- _____ 8. A nurse working in the GI clinic is performing pre-op phone calls. The nurse calls a client who is scheduled for a colonoscopy to inform the client of the following orders, “Begin clear liquid diet 24 hours prior to the exam; take magnesium citrate (Citroma) 1 bottle PO 12 hours prior to the exam and another 8 hours prior to the exam; remain NPO for 6 hours prior to the study.” The test is scheduled the next day at 2 p.m. The nurse would instruct the patient to:
- A. “Only have liquids to drink at this point until the test. Use the enema prep at 2 a.m. and then again at 6 a.m. You can’t have anything to eat or drink after waking in the morning.”
 - B. “Start a clear liquid diet today at 2 p.m. Drink a bottle of prep at 2 a.m. and another at 6 a.m., and then don’t eat or drink anything after 8 a.m.”
 - C. “Don’t eat anything solid starting with lunch today. Give yourself an enema with the prep at 6 a.m. and again at noon, and don’t have anything to eat or drink after 8 a.m.”
 - D. “Start a clear liquid diet with dinner today. Drink the prep 12 hours and 8 hours before your test at 2 p.m. tomorrow, and be sure not to eat anything solid after you get up in the morning.”
- _____ 9. While working in a surgical clinic, the nurse notes orders that read, “.25 mg digoxin (Lanoxin) IV now.” Which action by the nurse is best?
- A. Give .25 mg of digoxin intravenously.
 - B. Give 25 mg of digoxin as an injection into the skin.

- C. Contact the physician for clarification of the order.
- D. Give .25 mL of digoxin as an intramuscular injection.

- _____ 10. A client being seen in the outpatient clinic has been given a new prescription for tetracycline (Doxycycline) orally each day. The client reported current medications include a multivitamin with calcium, St. John's Wort, and omeprazole (Prilosec). The nurse would provide additional teaching for which client statement?
- A. "I should try to take the medication at roughly the same time each day."
 - B. "I can take this medication with my other morning meds."
 - C. "I should take this medication at least an hour before or 2 hours after I eat."
 - D. "Drinking extra water is important when taking this medication."
- _____ 11. The nurse receives a phone call from an elderly woman who states that her husband has recently started taking atorvastatin (Lipitor) and is complaining of having sore muscles. Which response by the nurse is best?
- A. "Does your husband smoke cigarettes?"
 - B. "What type of exercise is your husband doing?"
 - C. "Does your husband have a history of heart disease?"
 - D. "Your husband should be seen in the clinic today for some tests."
- _____ 12. A nurse from the adult medical unit is pulled to the geriatric unit. The nurse notes many of the common medications provided are in lower doses than typically prescribed. What action by the nurse is the highest priority?
- A. Notify the charge nurse that clients may have received inappropriate medication dosages.
 - B. Call the nursing supervisor to investigate the nurse's concerns.
 - C. Don't worry about the discrepancy since this is not the nurse's unit.
 - D. Evaluate the lab values of each client to determine liver and kidney function.
- _____ 13. While working on a geriatric unit, the nurse would be most concerned by which of these findings?
- A. An 81-year-old client is scheduled to take 12 pills at 9 a.m.
 - B. A 72-year-old client given a sleeping pill the night before seems confused.
 - C. A 69-year-old client with a deep vein thrombosis has an order for an anticoagulant.
 - D. A 74-year-old client with diabetes has a fasting glucose result of 88 g/dL.
- _____ 14. The nurse notes that an elderly client admitted with metastatic cancer has a low serum protein level. Which action by the nurse is best?
- A. No action is required because the patient is terminal.
 - B. Increase the frequency of vital sign monitoring.
 - C. Determine the most recent complete blood count (CBC) results.
 - D. Increase awareness and assessment of potential medication side effects.
- _____ 15. Shortly after providing a new sleeping pill to a client on the medical unit, the nurse answers the client's call light. Which of the following findings would indicate to the nurse that the client is experiencing an anaphylactic reaction to the medication?
- A. The client's respiratory rate is 28 and slightly labored.
 - B. The client complains of continued wakefulness and agitation.
 - C. The client states that she feels nauseated and has a headache.

- D. The client reports feeling hot and has a rash across her chest.
- ___ 16. A nurse working at the poison control center receives a call from a young woman babysitting for a 4-year-old child who reportedly swallowed some of the parent's medication. Which statement by the nurse is best?
- A. "I'm calling emergency personnel for you now."
 - B. "What do the pills look like?"
 - C. "Have the child drink a glass of milk."
 - D. "What is the name of the pills?"
- ___ 17. The nurse is preparing to provide medications to a client in a double room. The client's roommate has multiple visitors present. Which of the following actions would the nurse take first?
- A. Identify the action and side effect of each medication as it is provided.
 - B. Pull the client's bedside curtain and talk in subdued tones.
 - C. Ask the client to state his name and birth date to verify identity.
 - D. Determine what questions the client has about his medications.

Multiple Response

Identify one or more choices that best complete the statement or answer the question.

- ___ 1. While providing medications in the clinical lab, a student would perform actions related to safe administration that include which of the following? (Select all that apply.)
- A. Right medication
 - B. Right dose
 - C. Right time
 - D. Right room
 - E. Right patient
 - F. Right route
- ___ 2. While supervising a student nurse providing morning medications to clients in the long-term-care facility, the nurse would intervene if the student was observed performing which of the following actions? (Select all that apply.)
- A. The student checks the patient's arm band to verify identity.
 - B. The student verifies the medication order.
 - C. The student scans the medication with the computer scanner.
 - D. The student checks the medication's expiration date.
 - E. The student prepares a medication scheduled for 1800.
 - F. The student asks the client to state his first name prior to giving the medication.
- ___ 3. A female nursing student is 18 weeks pregnant while attending her pharmacology class. Which of the following facts related to fetal effects of medications will the student recognize as true? (Select all that apply.)
- A. Category A drugs are known to have minimal risk to the fetus.
 - B. Category C drugs are known to cause severe risk to the fetus in human trials.
 - C. Drugs that are classified as teratogenic are not able to cross the placental barrier.
 - D. Category X drugs have not been studied in pregnant women.
 - E. Category B drugs have slight risk to the fetus; both animal and human studies have

been done.

- _____ 4. A nurse is working with a group of male veterans participating in a smoking-cessation program. The nurse recognizes that which of the following statements related to medications in these clients is true? (Select all that apply.)
- A. An increased number of medications will have teratogenic effects in this population.
 - B. Medications are likely to be absorbed and distributed more rapidly.
 - C. This population has a decreased lipase secretion.
 - D. These clients may need larger doses of liver-metabolized drugs.
 - E. Drugs will be metabolized more slowly by this population.
- _____ 5. A nurse working in the emergency room is preparing for the admission of a 34-year-old client with a drug overdose. Which of the following equipment and/or orders will the nurse anticipate?
- A. Telemetry monitoring
 - B. Blood transfusion
 - C. Activated charcoal
 - D. Dialysis machine
 - E. Nasogastric tube and 60-mL syringe for lavage
 - F. Contrast for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) testing
- _____ 6. A nurse working on the orthopedic unit is providing discharge instructions for a client with a fractured femur. When explaining the client's narcotic pain medication, the nurse would include which statement? (Select all that apply.)
- A. "This medication may make you sleepy, so you can't drive while taking it."
 - B. "Narcotics can cause constipation, so be sure to drink extra fluid and eat a high-fiber diet."
 - C. "Many patients who take this feel dizzy or light-headed, so you must be careful of falls, especially at night."
 - D. "Only take the number of pills prescribed per day. Taking more can be dangerous."
 - E. "You can take this medication as many times as needed for pain control."
- _____ 7. An RN is working to support clinical trials in clients with cancer. Which of the following would be an anticipated part of this role? (Select all that apply.)
- A. Educating the clients about the treatment, side effects, and alternative therapies
 - B. Ensuring that informed consent to participate is obtained
 - C. Documenting client and family understanding related to the trial
 - D. Providing payment to the client for participation in the trial
 - E. Ordering medications from the pharmacy based on clients' height and weight

Matching

Place the following steps of medication administration for an ordered medication in the correct order.

- A. Ask the client to state his/her name and birth date.
- B. Open the medication packaging.
- C. Verify the medication and dose.

D. Scan the medication with the computer scanner.

- _____ 1. First
- _____ 2. Second
- _____ 3. Third
- _____ 4. Fourth

Chapter 3. Patient Safety in Medication Administration

Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication Administration KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Table 3.2 (p. 29): PO is by mouth (orally) and o.s. is left eye.
2. ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication Administration KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Patient Rights for Safety (p. 26): Check the label before you take the bottle from the shelf, check the label before you pour the drug out, check the label before you put the bottle back on the shelf.
3. ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Antibiotics KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Patient Rights for Safety (p. 26): Some medications, such as antibiotics need to be given a standard number of hours apart around the clock to maintain a consistent blood level. Most antibiotics work best when taken on an empty stomach (p. 31). Store medications safely locked away.
4. ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Inhaled Steroids KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Patient Rights for Safety (p. 26): Emphasize that patients need to adhere to the exact prescription and avoid self-medication.
5. ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate TOP: Therapeutic Classification: NA
KEY: Analysis MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Fast Tip 3.1 (p. 27): Store medications safely no matter what age others are in the household. Discomfort at the surgical incision site should be investigated to ensure that no infection is present, but tenderness 3 days after surgery is still expected and may interfere with prosthetic use.
6. ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Anti-inflammatory agents KEY: Application
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: Patient Rights for Safety (p. 27): A liquid formulation may be necessary if the drug must be given through a feeding tube. A needle should not be necessary for g-tube administration. Documentation should not occur until after the medication is given. Clients should be asked to state name and birth date for proper identification.
7. ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Amphetamine mixtures KEY: Application
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Medication Administration Table 3.1 (p. 28): Adderall and Advair each have other drugs with look-alike/sound-alike names. Adderall is used to treat ADHD symptoms. Advair is provided in diskus/inhalation format for clients with asthma and food is not a factor in its provision. These two medications can be given at the same time.
8. ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Laxatives KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Table 3.2: NPO means nothing by mouth; PO means orally. Giving specific

directions/instructions, including times for prep, will help ensure that clients understand and follow the correct procedure for medication administration.

9. ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Amionoglycocides KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Table 3.2 and 3.3: IV means intravenous (into a vein), but without a zero in front of the decimal point, this order should be clarified.
10. ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Antibiotics KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Factors Affecting Medication Administration (p. 31): Administering tetracycline with calcium prevents the absorption of the antibiotic. Most antibiotics work best when taken on an empty stomach. Many antibiotics can cause diarrhea, so drinking extra fluids is important.
11. ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Lipid lowering agents KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Age, gender and culture (p. 31): Toxic drug levels can be found in elderly patients, even with normal doses. The aging process alters liver and kidney function and leads to accumulation of medications. Atorvastatin can cause muscle breakdown, a condition that is worsened in the presence of kidney or liver disease, so it will be important to have the client evaluated and have laboratory testing done.
12. ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication administration KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Dosage Calculations
NOT: See Age, gender and culture (p. 31): The aging process alters liver and kidney function and leads to accumulation of medications. Because of these factors, doses may need to be adjusted for elderly patients.
13. ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate TOP: Therapeutic Classification: NA
KEY: Analysis MSC: NCLEX Category: Coordinated Care
NOT: See Age, gender and culture (p. 31): Of special concern are sedative-hypnotics. These medications are commonly associated with adverse drug events and can worsen agitation and exacerbate dementia. Another concern for geriatric patients is polypharmacy, but this is not the highest priority in this scenario. Anticoagulant medication is an appropriate treatment for deep vein thrombosis. A reading of 88 g/dL is a normal fasting blood glucose.
14. ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate TOP: Therapeutic Classification: NA
KEY: Application MSC: NCLEX Category: Physiological Adaptation
NOT: See Patients with Organ Dysfunction (p. 34): Decreased serum protein levels can alter the capacity of a drug to bond. More unbound medication is therefore available and this can lead to side effects. Serum protein levels may indirectly impact blood volume and therefore blood pressure, but this is not the highest priority. Recent CBC results may be indirectly affected by low serum protein levels, but this is not the highest priority for this scenario.
15. ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate TOP: Therapeutic Classification: NA
KEY: Analysis MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Patient Emergencies (p. 36): A severe allergic reaction is called anaphylaxis. Patients experiencing anaphylaxis have difficulty breathing and may have other symptoms such as itching, wheezing, anxiety, and light-headedness.
16. ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate TOP: Therapeutic Classification: NA
KEY: Analysis MSC: NCLEX Category: Safety and Infection Control
NOT: See Patient Emergencies (p. 36): If you receive a call from a patient who has ingested a toxic substance, call 911. This child needs immediate medical attention, which should take priority over other actions or assessment. Learning more about the medications will be helpful and milk may be appropriate to reduce acidity, but the priority is to have emergency personnel respond first.

17. ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication Administration KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Patient Consent (p. 35): Patients have the right to receive medications in a quiet, private place. The first action in this scenario is to attempt to provide client privacy by pulling the bedside curtain and speaking in subdued tones.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE

1. ANS: A, B, C, E, F PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication Administration KEY: Knowledge
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Patient Rights for Safety (p. 26) The seven right of medication administration include right patient, right drug, right dose, right time, right route, right technique, and right documentation.
2. ANS: E, F PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication administration KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Patient Rights for Safety (p. 26) The seven rights of medication administration include right patient, right drug, right dose, right time, right route, right technique, and right documentation. Before you administer any medication, make sure that you have the right patient by asking the individual to state his or her full name and birth date. Verify that you have the correct medication for the patient. In a hospital, scanning a bar code to double-check a medication with a computer system may help reduce medication errors. 1800 is 6 p.m.; this is not a morning medication and would not be provided at this time. Both first and last name and birthdate should be stated prior to provision of medications.
3. ANS: A, E PTS: 1 DIF: Hard TOP: Therapeutic Classification: NA
KEY: Knowledge MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Pregnancy and Table 3.5 (p. 33): Category A medications have the lowest risk. Category B medications have slight risk, with animal studies showing no risk or, if risk is noted, human studies have shown no risk. Category C medications have moderate risk based on animal studies, and controlled studies have not been done on women. Category X medications have the highest risk as studies have shown significant risk. Teratogenic drugs cross the placental barrier and cause deformities.
4. ANS: B, D PTS: 1 DIF: Hard TOP: Therapeutic Classification: NA
KEY: Knowledge MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Age, gender and culture (p. 32–33): Medications are absorbed and distributed in the body more quickly in men than in women. Smoking cigarettes induces liver enzymes to metabolize drugs more rapidly, so clients may need larger doses of liver-metabolized drugs. Teratogenic effects are related to fetal development and will not impact male clients. Lipase secretion is decreased in infants as compared with adults.
5. ANS: A, C, E PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate TOP: Therapeutic Classification: NA
KEY: Application MSC: NCLEX Category: Physiological Adaptation
NOT: See Patient Emergencies (p. 36): Actions will depend on the type of toxin but may include administration of activated charcoal, lavage (pumping of the patient's stomach), and monitoring the patient for changes in vital signs, including heart rate (telemetry). Blood transfusion, dialysis, and MRI testing is not immediately anticipated and would only be ordered if the client was experiencing bleeding, kidney failure, or symptoms of a stroke, respectively.
6. ANS: A, B, C, D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate
TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Narcotics KEY: Analysis
MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
NOT: See Protecting the Patient: Ethical and Safety Considerations (p. 34): It is your responsibility as a health professional to educate the patient about the risks associated with taking more than the prescribed dose.

7. ANS: A, B, C PTS: 1 DIF: Hard TOP: Therapeutic Classification: NA
 KEY: Application MSC: NCLEX Category: Coordinated Care
 NOT: See Patient consent (p. 35): A patient who is taking an experimental drug has the right to informed consent, which includes understanding the treatment and its effects, alternative treatments, and possible outcome if the treatment is declined. It is essential to document informed consent. Clients are generally not paid to participate in clinical trials. RNs are not able to order medications.

MATCHING

1. ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
 TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication Administration KEY: Application
 MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
 NOT: See Patient Rights for Safety (p. 26): Before you administer any medication, make sure that you have the right patient by asking the individual to state his or her full name and birth date. Verify that you have the correct medication for the patient. In a hospital, scanning bar codes to double-check a medication with a computer system may help reduce medication errors.
2. ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
 TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication Administration KEY: Application
 MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
 NOT: See Patient Rights for Safety (p. 26): Before you administer any medication, make sure that you have the right patient by asking the individual to state his or her full name and birth date. Verify that you have the correct medication for the patient. In a hospital, scanning bar codes to double-check a medication with a computer system may help reduce medication errors.
3. ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
 TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication Administration KEY: Application
 MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
 NOT: See Patient Rights for Safety (p. 26): Before you administer any medication, make sure that you have the right patient by asking the individual to state his or her full name and birth date. Verify that you have the correct medication for the patient. In a hospital, scanning bar codes to double-check a medication with a computer system may help reduce medication errors.
4. ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
 TOP: Therapeutic Classification: Medication Administration KEY: Application
 MSC: NCLEX Category: Pharmacological Therapies
 NOT: See Patient Rights for Safety (p. 26): Before you administer any medication, make sure that you have the right patient by asking the individual to state his or her full name and birth date. Verify that you have the correct medication for the patient. In a hospital, scanning bar codes to double-check a medication with a computer system may help reduce medication errors.