

8 Rights of Medication Administration

[VIDEO TRANSCRIPT]

When it comes to patient safety it's always good to remember the basics. These eight rights of medication administration should be followed for every medication you give. Let's get started. The first right of medication administration is the right patient. Check the patient's name on the order and on his ID band. Use two identifiers. For example, the patient's name and his medical record number. Ask the patient to identify himself by stating his name. Take advantage of available technology such as barcode administration systems. To ensure administration of the right medication, check both the medication label and the order for the drug. To confirm you are giving the right dose, check the order. Use a current drug reference to check that the dose ordered is appropriate. Also calculate the dose if necessary and have another nurse double-check the dosage calculation independently. Make sure you are giving the ordered medication by the right route. Check the order to see which route is specified and confirm that the route is appropriate for the medication and that the patient is able to take the medication by the ordered route. Give the medication at the right time. Check the frequency of the ordered medication and double-check that you are giving the dose at the right time. Also, be sure to confirm the time that the last dose was administered. Do not pre-chart medication administration. Document administration after giving the drug. Be sure to include the time, route, and any other specific information as indicated. For example document the site of an injection or any laboratory value or vital sign that need to be checked before giving the drug. Make sure the ordered medication is being given for the right reason. Ask what is the patient's history? Why is he or she taking this medication? Also revisit reasons for long-term medication use. Assess the patient for the right response to the medication. For example, if an antihypertensive was given, has the patient's blood pressure improved? Does the patient verbalize improvement in depression while on an antidepressant or pain relief after given an analgesic? Document patient monitoring, other

related nursing interventions, and the patient's response. So remember: right patient, right medication, right dose, right route, right time, right documentation, right reason, and right response.