



- Accreditation Canada Survey will take place September 19–23, 2016
- In this issue, we focus on medication administration safety

Medication Management Standards Newsletter

The VCH Accreditation Medication Management Standards Advisory Group is working on Accreditation Canada's Medication Management Standards to address improvement opportunities identified from the self assessment surveys conducted during Spring 2015. These standards focus on the safe and effective management of medications; and address all aspects of the medication

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION and SAFETY

Safety steps can be put in place to prevent medication errors due to mix-ups and distractions. The following are expected standards of practice to ensure the right medications are given to the right patient.

1. All orders for medications must be recorded in the patient's chart.

2. Whenever possible, all orders must be reviewed by the pharmacist before first dose administration.

3. Use 2 Unique Identifiers to ensure the medication is given to the right patient. It is also a required practice for any other care activity that has the potential to cause harm if administered to the wrong patient (i.e. tests, procedures, blood products, etc.).

Confirm any 2 of:

- ✓ First and Last name
- ✓ Medical Record Number (MRN)
- ✓ Provincial Health Number (PHN)
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ Current Photo
- ✓ Ask client to state name or birthdate
- ✓ Address verification (for home visits)

4. Match the right patient to the right medication, treatment, or test by confirming the patient against the MAR, Prescribers Order, or Requisition.

5. Check all of the 7 Rights

- ✓ Right **Client** (use 2 patient specific identifiers)
- ✓ Right **Medication**
- ✓ Right **Dose**
- ✓ Right **Route**
- ✓ Right **Date/Time**
- ✓ Right **Reason**
- ✓ Right **Documentation/Reporting**

6. Complete one task at a time. For safety, medications are to be given as close as possible to the time the nurse prepares them. *Pre-pouring of medications for one patient or multiple patients is not an acceptable practice.* It is too hard to recall what has been poured, and it is harder to guarantee that only one nurse is responsible for all the rights of medication administration.

Steps for Safe Medication Administration:

- ✓ Pour medication for one patient at a time
- ✓ Take the MAR to patient to match identifiers prior to giving the medication
- ✓ Match 2 identifiers from MAR to patient either verbally or against wrist band
- ✓ Match medication, dose, date/time from the medication package to the MAR
- ✓ If initial dose or adjusted dose, provide medication information to the patient and document activity in Health Record

Why is it important to match the MAR to the patient before giving a medication?

- It allows you to give the right medication to the right patient by using a 2-identifier process. By following this process, you can be confident you are giving the right medication.
- It also allows for immediate documentation of medication administration. This practice will increase accuracy if nurses are interrupted. Interruptions can make it difficult to remember the exact time medications were given or if any were refused.