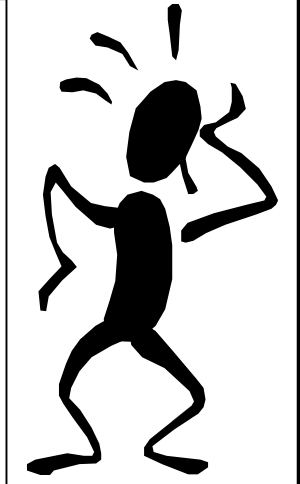




Medication Errors

If you make a medication error, follow your employer's procedure for reporting and documenting the error.



Types of Medication Errors Include, but are not limited to:

1. Giving the wrong medicine
2. Giving medication at the wrong time
3. Giving medication to the wrong client
4. Giving medication by the wrong route
5. Giving the incorrect dose of the medication
6. Giving expired (outdated) medication
7. Giving medication that was improperly stored (potency may have been affected)
8. Giving medication without a physician order
9. Omitting a medication
10. Improper documentation

Causes of Medication Error

1. Reading the label incorrectly
2. Not waiting for the client to swallow the medication
3. Not documenting immediately that a medication was given
4. Error in transcription from the dispensing label to the MAR
5. Inaccurate transcribing of a verbal order onto the MAR
6. Incorrect documentation of medication given
7. Multi-tasking while setting up medication – not giving the task your full attention
8. Environmental distractions (noise, talking to another while setting up, cluttered work area)



Missed Doses of Medication

If you miss giving a medication in the correct time, report and document according to your Employer's policy.

For any medication, when a dose is missed, use the pharmacy information sheet or call the pharmacy to see if it is still OK to administer that dose. If you call the pharmacy, document the name of the pharmacist with whom you spoke along with date and time. Document any instructions given by the pharmacist per agency policy. Call the delegating nurse if applicable. Always complete a UI (Unusual Incident) Report and give this report to your supervisor per agency policy.

Documentation Errors

Initialing in the wrong space (time, date, medication) on the MAR is a documentation error. It is a medication error and can lead to an additional medication error. Follow your Employer's instructions for correcting this type of error. If at all possible, have the person making the error correct it immediately.

Preventative Measures to Reduce Medication Errors:

- ◆ More training / education of staff certified to give medications
- ◆ Re-evaluation of Employer's or DODD policies and procedures
- ◆ Review of corrective actions to be implemented or followed