Chapter 32

Oral Medications
Medication Orders

ONE of the nurse’s most important responsibilities is the administration of medications (chemical substances that change body function).

Medication:
- “Chemical substances that change body function“

Medication Orders
- Lists the drug name and directions for its administration
- Written on client’s medical records.
- Written by medical personnel, physician’s assistant.
Components of medication orders:

1. Client's name
2. Date and time the order is written
3. Drug name (trade name)
4. Dose to be administered
5. Route of administration
6. Frequency of administration
7. Signature of the person ordering the drug

**Note:** If any one of these components is absent, the nurse must withhold the drug until he or she has obtained the missing information. Medication errors are serious.
Components of medication orders:

**Drug Name**
- Each drug has a **Trade name** (name that the pharmaceutical company who made the drug uses) and followed by ®
- Drugs also have a **Generic name** (chemical name not protected by a company's trademark),

**Drug Dose**
- The dose means the amount of drug to administer

**Route of administration**
- The route of administration means how the drug is given, which may be by the oral, topical, inhalant, or parenteral route
The oral route

- Administration of drugs by swallowing or instillation through an enteral tube, facilitates drug absorption through the gastrointestinal tract.
- It is the most common route for medication administration because it is safer, more economical, and more comfortable than others.
- Medications administered by the oral route come in both solid and liquid forms.
Medication Orders ………(cont’d)

Components of medication orders:

- **Frequency of administration**
  - The frequency of drug administration refers to how often and how regularly the medication is to be given.
  - Frequency of administration is written using standard abbreviations of Latin origin. Some common examples:
    - Stat—immediately
    - b.i.d.—twice a day
    - t.i.d.—three times a day
    - q.i.d.—four times a day
    - q.h.—hourly
    - q4h—every 4 hours
Medication Orders ……..(cont’d)

Components of medication orders:

**Medication Order**

*Date 03/08/2019*
*Time 8:30 AM*

*Client's name: Miss Hind*

*R/
Gentamycin 20 mg IM q 8 h*

*Signature*
Mr. Hassan
Verbal and Telephone Orders

- **Verbal orders** are instructions for client care that are given during face-to-face conversations.

- **Telephone orders** are obtained from a physician during a telephone conversation.
  - When obtaining phone orders, it is important to repeat the dosages of drugs and to spell drug names for confirmation of accuracy.
  - Some nurses ask a second nurse to listen to a telephone order on an extension.
Verbal and Telephone Orders

Caduceus Trauma and Medical Center
157 North 11th Street — Austin, TX 78701
(555) 555-7600, Main

| PATIENT INFORMATION |
| Travis Gagner — ID: 564775830394 |
| Room 522, Height: 6ft 1in, Weight 86kg |

Start IV Fluids STAT:
1L D5W with 16% Sodium Chloride
125mL/hr @ 60gtts/min

Voice Order by MD Sunita Chandari/Alex Jackson, RN
Storing Medications

- Each health agency has one area for storing drugs. Some agencies keep medications in a mobile cart; others store them in a medication room.

Accounting for Narcotics

- Health agencies keep narcotics in a double-locked drawer, box, or room on the nursing unit.
- Because narcotics usually are delivered by stock supply, nurses are responsible for an accurate account of their use.

Nurses count narcotics at each change of shift.
Medication Administration

• Safety is the main concern in medication administration.

• Taking various precautions before, during, and after each administration reduces the potential for medication errors.

• Some precautions include ensuring the rights of medication administration, calculating drug dosages accurately, preparing medications carefully, and recording their administration.
Rights of Medication Administration

1. Right patient
2. Right medication
3. Right dose
4. Right time
5. Right route
6. Right documentation

+ Right to refuse
Drug Calculation Formula

**Example**

Drug order: Tetracycline 500 mg (desired dose) by mouth q.i.d.
Dose supplied: 250 mg (dose on hand) per 5 mL (quantity)

**Calculation:**

\[
\frac{500 \text{ mg}}{250 \text{ mg}} \times 5 \text{ mL} = 10 \text{ mL}
\]
Administering Oral Medications

- Nurses prepare and bring oral medications to the client's bedside in a paper or plastic cup.
- The nurse administers only those medications that he or she has personally prepared;
- Never administer medications pre-prepared by another nurse.
Administering Oral Medications by Enteral Tube

- When a client cannot swallow oral medications, they can be instilled by enteral tube.

- After administering the drug, the nurse clamps or plugs the tube for at least 30 minutes to prevent removing the drug before it leaves the stomach.

- Nurses can give medications while a client is receiving tube feedings, but they instill the medications separately—that is, they do not add the medications to the formula.
Documentation

- Nurses document medication administration on the MAR (Medication Administration Rerecord), the client's chart, or both as soon as possible.
- Timely documentation prevents medication errors

Sample Documentation

Time and date

temp. (38°C) ibuprofen 400 mg. given by mouth for relief of fever. Fever reduced to (37.5°C) 30 minutes later.

Signature/ Title
Medication Errors

- Medication errors happen.
- As soon as he or she recognizes an error, the nurse checks the client's condition and reports the mistake to the prescriber and supervising nurse immediately.
- Health care agencies have a form for reporting medication errors called an incident sheet or accident sheet.