Answer Guidance

# Chapter 29: Medicines administration

## Activity answer guidance

### Activity 29.1

You and your practice supervisor have moved the drug trolley to the middle of a patient area and are administering the 18.00 drugs to patients you have been helping him care for. The cardiac arrest bell goes off and you hear a staff member call for help in the next room.

 What should your practice supervisor do?

#### Answer guidance:

*The practice supervisor should lock the trolley before going to see if their colleague needs assistance.*

### Activity 29.2

Reflect on an experience when you have assisted your practice supervisor to administer medication to a patient:

 Did they apply the eight rights of medication?

 If not, did they use another, similar system?

 How do the eight rights, or other systems, assist nurses to administer medication safely?

#### Answer guidance:

*You have been asked to reflect on an experience when you have assisted your practice supervisor to administer medication to a patient:*

*Hopefully, the nurse did use the 8 rights of medication administration. Although they may not have verbally spoken through the process, you may have noticed they did thoroughly* *check the drug against the drug card before removing the medication, ask the patient their name and check their wrist label against the drug card. This process should provide a framework to reduce the likelihood of drug errors.*

### Activity 29.3

Mr. Jones is prescribed 1 g of paracetamol, which comes in 500 mg tablets: How many tablets would you give him?

Answer = 2

Lizzie, a 3-year-old patient, is prescribed 250 mg of ampicillin, which comes in liquid form at 50 mg per ml: How many ml would you give her?

Answer = 5 ml

You need to give Mr. Singh a 50 mg dose of oral morphine. You have a bottle of morphine elixir at a concentration of 2 mg/ml: How much should you give him?

Answer = 100 ml

The dose of a drug required is 1 g and the solution available has 50 mg per ml: How many ml are required for the dose?

Answer = 20 ml

Miss MacTavish weighs 50 kg. The dose of a drug prescribed for her is 10 mg per kg and the medicine strength is 50 mg per ml: How many ml are required for a single dose?

Answer = 10 ml

An injection contains 200 mg in 10 ml and the dose required is 60 mg: How many ml should be injected?

Answer = 3 ml

### Activity 29.4

Aodhan is 6 months into his nursing programme and has enjoyed his first placement, apart from feeling very confused as to how to calculate drug doses. He is convinced he is not able to get the correct answers and is concerned that he may give the wrong amount of a drug to a patient.

 What advice would you give Aodhan?

#### Answer guidance:

*I would advise Aodhan that it is normal to feel apprehensive about medicines administration but he will not be allowed to do this unsupervised until he qualifies, so there will be plenty more time to practice under supervision. He should use the opportunity to observe, ask lots of questions, and practice under the supervision of his practice supervisor.*

## Case study answer guidance

### Case study 29.1: Julia

Julia is 25 and has recently been diagnosed as having episodes of psychotic behaviour. Following a period in hospital, she is now being cared for in her own home, and the community mental health team visits twice a week. It is imperative that Julia receives her medication to manage her psychosis, but she is currently refusing any treatment, as she says that she is better and does not need it anymore.

 What would be your priority?

 What specific additional assessments and actions would you perform to ensure Julia’s safety?

 What steps could the community mental health team take if Julia continues to refuse treatment?

#### Answer guidance:

 What would be your priority?

*To ensure Julia receives her medication*.

 What specific additional assessments and actions would you perform to ensure Julia’s safety?

*To assess her ability to give informed consent. Developing a therapeutic relationship may help. Speak to Julia about her reasons for declining the drug and explain that she is feeling better because of the drug, and if she were to suddenly stop taking it she may experience more psychotic behaviour. Seek support and explore other options with your practice supervisor/team leader if she continues to refuse.*

 What steps could the community mental health team take if Julia continues to refuse treatment?

*If the patient does have the capacity, they might make decisions that are unwise. If Julia does not take her medication she will have further psychotic behaviours. Potentially she may be recalled to the hospital. The Mental Capacity Act can be used to treat patients without capacity if there is concern about their health and safety or that of others.*

### Case study 29.2: Guy, his mum, and Benji

Guy is 42 and has a moderate learning disability. He lives with his mum, who is his main carer and requires only minimal assistance with his daily activities. Guy doesn’t like to socialise, preferring to spend most of his time caring for and walking Benji, his dog, a 2-year-old Irish Wolfhound. Over the last 3 months, Guy has been feeling increasingly unwell; he has recently been diagnosed with diabetes. He has been prescribed tablets to control his blood sugar but is very confused about when he should take them and why. His mum has been searching the internet to find out information about diabetes, but she is confused about what she has found and is unclear as to how Guy’s condition will be improved by the tablets. Guy has been up all night because he is very worried about who will look after Benji if he becomes ill, as “Benji is too big and naughty for Mum to manage.” Guy’s mum has brought him to see the practice nurse at his GP surgery, to help her and Guy understand his treatment.

 What type of information is it necessary to share with Guy and his mum to help them to understand his medication?

 Who else could be involved in offering Guy and his mum the support they require?

#### Answer guidance:

*It is important for Guy and his mum to understand what diabetes is and its impact on the body, as well as the medication and how this helps to manage diabetes and make Guy feel better. They need to know how to take the medication and when, how to check his blood sugar and when this should be done. Lifestyle advice such as diet and exercise would also help- walking the dog would be great!*

*The diabetes specialist nurse would be involved, and a structured education program should be offered. They could also be signposted to support groups.*