

The Five Rights Of Medication Administration

Reminder: It is our duty and responsibility as professionals in the nursing field to ensure health care quality and patient safety. According to The Institute of Medicine, "Medical errors cause as many as 98,000 deaths at a cost of up to \$29 billion each year in hospitals alone." Alarming, isn't it? Even more startling, is the fact that it has come to our attention that at times it is a common practice for some nurses to sign out narcotics and then rely on another staff member to administer the medication. This is a questionable practice that has the possibility for errors. Hopefully, the first nurse gives the right medication to the second nurse who then administers it to the correct patient. Another possibility is that the second nurse does not administer the medication as ordered. The third possibility is that the first or the second nurse could keep the drug. This is known as diversion. Therefore, it is overwhelmingly important that all nurses follow the five rights of medication administration: 1) Right Patient 2) Right Route 3) Right Dose 4) Right Time 5) Right Medication. Ultimately, the appropriate documentation should occur as well. Don't place your license in jeopardy by not using good nursing judgment when signing out and administering medications.