



Safer Practice Notice

Pre-Pouring Medications

Status

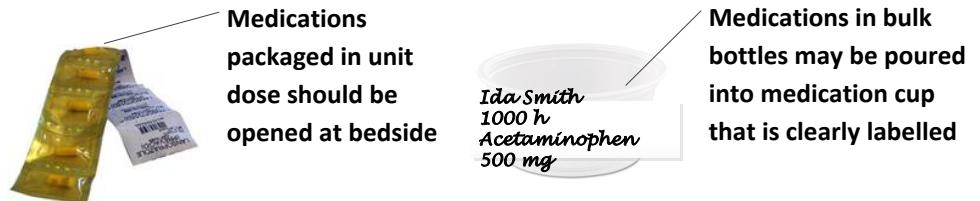
- Active
- Updated
- Archived
- Resolved

Zone Application

- Provincial
- North
- Edmonton
- Central
- Calgary
- South

Pre-pouring medications is the process of preparing medications in advance and then storing them until administering to the patient. A review into patient harm events has discovered that pre-pouring medications is unacceptable because the medications:

- Cannot accurately be compared to the Medications Administration Record (MAR)
- Violates at least two of the seven rights of medication administration (right patient & right medication), dramatically increasing the probability of medication errors



Action

Adhere to the following best practices when administering medications:

- Administer medications immediately after preparation.
- Administer medications to one patient at a time.
- Take the MAR to the point of care for easy reference.
- Ensure medication cup is labeled with patient name, drug name(s), dose(s) and administration time.
- Always perform the seven rights of medication administration:
 - Right medication
 - Right patient (use 2 unique identifiers)
 - Right dose
 - Right time & frequency
 - Right route
 - Right reason
 - Right documentation (document immediately on MAR)
- Wash hands after contact with the MAR to reduce the incidence of nosocomial infection.

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