

Medication Assistance Activity Sheet: Oral Medication

MAP Level 2 & 3: Medication Assistance Activity Sheet

This activity sheet guides unregulated health care providers when assisting with oral medication.

check	Activity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The First Medication Safety Check is done by the regulated health care provider who verifies the completeness and appropriateness of the prescriber's order (e.g., dispensing pharmacy or nurse)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduce yourself and review the client's care plan/medication record for instructions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform hand hygiene and gather the required supplies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oral medication • disposable medication cup (with dosage markings when measuring medication) • water or other fluid as instructed in the care plan • other items as per care plan: e.g., Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), pudding/ applesauce for crushed medication, pill crusher, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform the Second Medication Safety Check : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check for allergies and alerts on the medication label and care plan/medication record • check the expiry date and/or beyond use date of the medication • check & compare the medication rights* on the medication label and care plan/medication record • report any discrepancies or incorrect/unclear information to the supervisor immediately; do not proceed until concerns are resolved
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare the medication according to instructions on the care plan/medication record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform hand hygiene • check that solid medication is not cracked, broken/crushed, that there are no particles in liquid medication, or that powdered medication is not solidified • prepare medication as directed in the care plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ place solid oral medication into a disposable medication cup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ when directed in the care plan, crush solid medication into a fine powder ▪ do not crush solid medication unless directed to do so ○ measure/pour liquid or powder medication into a disposable medication cup with dosage markings, placed on a level surface <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ liquid medication may be pre-measured in an oral syringe ▪ powdered medication may be in a pre-measured packet • mix liquid, powder, or crushed medication as instructed in the care plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform the Third Medication Safety Check : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the client using two (2) unique client identifiers • explain the activity to the client • check the medication rights* comparing the medication label and care plan/medication record
<p>* Medication rights: right client, right medication, right time, right dose, right route, right documentation, right of refusal. Unregulated health care providers are not required to know the "right reason" when providing medication assistance as directions on the care plan are followed.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide MAP Level 2 or 3 assistance as per the care plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • don PPE as required • provide the instructions as directed on the care plan...swish and spit or let dissolve • position the client for medication assistance (e.g., seated upright)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discard of used supplies and clean reusable equipment (if used) • perform hand hygiene • complete documentation • report observations as instructed on the care plan, or issues/concerns to the supervisor



Seniors Health & Continuing Care



Tips

Oral liquid & powder medication	Other types of oral medication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral liquid and powder medications are poured using clean technique into plastic disposable medication cups that have dosage markings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Liquid medication dose is verified by the meniscus (the curved surface of the liquid) in the medication cup ○ Powdered medication dose is verified by the level in the medication cup • When pouring medication, place the lid of the medication bottle upside down so that the edge of the lid does not come in contact with a contaminated surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sublingual medication is a type of oral medication that is taken under the tongue rather than swallowed whole • The medication is rapidly absorbed once it dissolves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buccal medication is a type of oral medication that is placed against the mucous membranes of the cheek rather than swallowed whole • The medication dissolves in the client's saliva
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALWAYS check the care plan and follow instructions for wearing PPE when required. Some medications are hazardous and require PPE to protect the healthcare provider. 		

References:

- Alberta Health & Wellness (2013). *Health Care Aide Provincial Curriculum: Course 6-Module 1: Assisting with Medication Delivery*
- Buccal and sublingual drug administration (2022, May, 19). *Lippincott Procedures*. <https://procedures-lww-com.ahs.idm.oclc.org/lnp/home.do?setCookie=2948>
- Oral drug administration (2022, May 19). *Lippincott Procedures*. <https://procedures-lww-com.ahs.idm.oclc.org/lnp/home.do?setCookie=2948>

Note: When providing **MAP Level 1** (reminder), the unregulated health care provider does not handle or prepare medication for the client. Therefore, they do not perform the medication rights or perform safety checks.