

Merced College
Vocational Nursing Program

Check List - Preparation for Medications

Med Observation Week:

Practice in Lab:

_____ SQ _____ Z TRACK IM _____ NOSE DROPS _____ N.G.
_____ IM _____ INTRADERMAL _____ INHALERS _____ EYE
_____ PO _____ OINTMENTS _____ EARS _____ PATCHES

IDENTIFY SIZES OF NEEDLES AND SYRINGES:

IM _____ ADULTS _____
SQ _____ CHILD _____
ID _____ INFANT _____

- _____ Go over Injection Sites.
- _____ Practice drawing up small volume of meds in 2 syringes-then combine for one injection.
- _____ Practice drawing up 2 meds in same syringe.
- _____ Review basic Math - calculating dosages.
- _____ Do Medication pre-test, turn in on your observation week to your instructor. She will return same day for corrections.
- _____ Know all meds mentioned on pre-test and make med sheet.
- _____ UNDERSTAND "6 RIGHTS" and "3 CHECKS".
- _____ Explain legal liability of med. administration.
- _____ Know how/who to notify should a medication error occur.
- _____ Review Peds Calculations.

Know how to chart on:

1. Mar _____
2. Narcotic Signout _____
3. Diabetic Flow Sheet _____
4. Nurses Notes for prn Meds _____
5. TB tine test on Progress sheet and Mar _____

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Med Rotation Week

THE DAY BEFORE:

- _____ Instructor will give Student Assignment of PT and Room #.
- _____ Student passing meds and Observer will have approx. 30 minutes with no interruptions from Instructor to write down 1. Pts name 2. Room # 3. Meds to be given including prn's and the times to give those meds. 4. Allergies 5. Diagnosis.
- _____ Student will be giving meds for 8,9,10 am meds only.
- _____ Watch clock and divide your time evenly with pt's charts. Don't use this time to be exceptionally neat or to look up your meds, do this at home.
- _____ With Instructor, check each ordered Medication from MAR with Doctors orders. (Start at the top of Mar list of meds, work down, don't skip around). Check for outdated meds and re-stamp. Narcotics are good for _____ days.
- _____ Med pass person will be responsible to look up all meds that are to be given including the prn's. These shall be written in such a way that they are organized and shall include the side effects, generic names, nursing considerations. (Not done in acute setting).
- _____ Read each H&P. KNOW YOUR PATIENT.
- _____ Note Lab Values with certain meds such as HEPARIN--PTT, PHENOBARBITAL LEVELS, DILANTIN LEVELS, DIGOXIN LEVELS, LASIX CHECK POTASSIUM LEVELS, THEODUR CHECK THEOPHYLLINE LEVELS ETC.....
- _____ Be sure to tell Instructor these levels before giving that certain med.
- _____ Laxatives note the last BM.
- _____ Note if your pt has dialysis in the next two days. Talk with dialysis nurse to see what meds your patient can take prior to dialysis. Know why some meds continue to be given.
- _____ Work together as a team.

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MED ROTATION HINTS:

BE ORGANIZED. Have your med sheet neatly written. Make sure you have the main side effects, generic name and nursing considerations. If you have a lot of 8 am meds, decide ahead which can be given on the ½ hour 8:30 and combine your 8 and 9 am meds, that's if they don't have to be given with meals, etc.....

If your patient is to receive dialysis, check with the dialysis nurse as to which meds can be given.

Know what is occurring on the floor, listen and learn. There is more to med rotation than passing a few pills. Know who is being discharged. If a patient is discharged, you will want to give him/her meds before everyone else and you will want to inform the nurse who is discharging that patient which meds have been given and the times.

Call Pharmacy if some of your meds are missing. Send your observer to the pharmacy for the meds.

You may only enter the med room with an instructor. Remember, there are usually 3 or 4 other nurses who have 8 am and 9 am meds to get out like yourself, so be patient.

If the chart is placed by the ward clerk, ask if you may look something up. Then only look at the chart while you are there, return it back to the exact place and reassure the ward clerk that the chart is back. The ward clerk will appreciate this effort.

It is good to always express a positive attitude to fellow students regarding med rotation. It helps to keep everyone's spirits up. It is made not as a frightening experience, but one for learning.

If a child is going to receive an injection, ask the RN or LVN if you may watch as she gives that injection. Observe how she secures that child. Or if you feel confident and would like to give the injection, tell the nurse you will give it. You will learn a lot from observing others.

I hope that some of these hints will help you with your med rotation. If you have any questions, be sure to ask. Enjoy and learn. This is your chance.....