

Medication Checks and the 10 Rights Cheat Sheet

Hey there, friend!

Giving medications at clinical can be SUPER scary.

You're the patient's last line of defense. And you cannot make a medication error. The stakes are simply just too high.

So it's important to follow the proper medication checks before you give any medication to a patient.

This will help keep the patient safe, and also help protect your license as a nurse!

Here's what's included:

1. Medication Checks (Steps)
2. The 10 Rights of Medication Administration

Be sure to print this cheat sheet out and pop it into your lecture or clinical binder so you can always reference it when you need to.

[And if you want more practice with dosage calculations, be sure to check out this playlist on YouTube.](#)

Thanks for being here, friend! And thanks for allowing me to help you along your nursing school journey.

All my best,
Christina

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MEDICATION CHECKS (STEPS):

This is the step-by-step process you'll go through before you give any medication:

1. Look over the Medication Administration Record (MAR)
2. Compare the MAR with the medication while pulling meds from the med cart
3. Compare the medication to the MAR after pulling the medication out
4. Compare the medication to the MAR after popping the medication into the med cup

THE 10 RIGHTS OF MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION:

Here are the 10 "rights" of giving medications.

You may see a subset of this list (like the 5 rights, 6 rights, 8 rights, etc.).

This is the comprehensive list that should include all of those.

Right patient

Use at least 2 unique patient identifiers before you give any medication to a patient.

Right medication

Follow the steps above (under "Medication Checks (Steps)" to ensure that you're giving the correct medication).

Right dose

Ensure that the dose is correct by following the "Medication Checks (Steps)" steps.

Right route

Make sure you're giving the medication by the correct route (i.e. oral medication, IV medication, etc.) is correct by following the "Medication Checks (Steps)" steps.

Right time

Ensure that you're giving the medication at the correct time by following the "Medication Checks (Steps)" steps.

Right documentation

Be sure to correctly document that you gave the medication (follow your facility's policy!).

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Right patient education

Make sure to educate the patient on why they are receiving the medication, what it does, what possible side effects are, and what they need to know about taking it at home (if needed).

Right to refuse

Remember that the patient has the right to refuse a medication.

Right nursing assessment

Go over the patient's health history, current medication list, and allergies to ensure the medication is appropriate for them. Ensure they are not allergic to the medication you are giving, and that it won't interact negatively with other medications they are receiving.

You should also assess the expiration date of the medication.

Right evaluation

Always assess the patient after giving to medication to ensure the desired effect was achieved and that no side effects or unintended effects occurred.