CLPNA Medication Administration Course

Glossary

**Administration (of a drug):** The supplying of a dose of a drug to a person for the purpose of immediate ingestion, application, inhalation, insertion, instillation or injection.

**Adverse event:** An injury from a medicine or lack of an intended medicine; including adverse drug reactions and harm from medication incidents.

**Aseptic technique:** A health care procedure designed to reduce the risk of transmission of pathogenic microorganisms.

**Authorized prescriber:** A health care professional who is authorized by legislation and permitted by their regulatory college, employer and practice setting to prescribe medications.

**Brand name:** Drug’s trade name usually followed by the registered trademark symbol on the manufacturer’s packaging.

**Chemical name:** Name given to newly discovered drugs that describes the chemical or molecular makeup. It provides an exact understanding of the chemical constitution of the drug and the placing of its atoms or molecular groupings.

**Client:** Refers to the individual, group, community, or population that is the recipient of care services and delivery.

**Compound:** To mix together two or more ingredients, of which at least one is a drug, for the purposes of dispensing a drug or drugs, but does not include reconstituting a drug or drugs with only water.

**Dispense:** To provide a drug pursuant to a prescription for a person, but does not include the administration of a drug to a person.

**Emergency situation:** A “medical situation in which immediate care is required.” In other words, in an emergency, the client would be placed at a significant risk if the clinical intervention is delayed.

**Environment:** The sum or combination of surrounding things, conditions, or influences.

**Excretion:** The elimination or removal of drug metabolites and, in some cases, the active drug itself from the body.

**Generic name:** Common name a drug is recognized by.

**Hazardous medications:** Hazardous medications are medications known or suspected to cause adverse health effects when health care workers are inadvertently exposed. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in the United States has identified six characteristics of hazardous drugs; drugs exhibiting one or more of these characteristics should be handled as hazardous and appropriate precautions taken.

**High-alert medications:** High-alert medications are drugs that bear a heightened risk of causing significant client harm when used in error. Although mistakes may or may not be more common with these drugs, the consequences of an error are clearly more devastating to clients. Use these lists to determine which medications require special safeguards at your practice site to reduce the risk of errors.

**Intermediary:** In the context of medication administration, an intermediary is someone who is used to communicate a verbal prescription between an authorized prescriber and a pharmacist.
**Invasive procedure**: Denoting a procedure requiring insertion of an instrument or device into the body through the skin or a body orifice for diagnosis or treatment.

**Medical assistance in dying**: (a) The administering by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner of a substance to a person, at their request, that causes their death; or (b) the prescribing or providing by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner of a substance to a person, at their request, so that they may self-administer the substance and in doing so cause their own death.

**Medication**: A drug as defined in the *Pharmacy and Drug Act*.

**Metabolism**: The process by which the body transforms, converts, and inactivates drugs.

**Near miss (good catch/close call)**: An event that could have caused harm or resulted in unwanted consequences, but did not because the event was caught and prevented.

**Nurse**: A regulated health care provider from a nursing regulatory college; licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, or registered psychiatric nurse.

**Order set**: A predetermined evidence-based prescribing tool prepared by authorized prescribers to manage a common state of disease or address a general purpose.

**Pharmacodynamics**: The process by which a drug works or affects a body.

**Pharmacokinetics**: The way the body deals with a drug, including absorption, distribution, biotransformation, and excretion.

**Pharmacology**: The science of drugs and the study of the biological effects on the human body.

**PRN medication**: (from the Latin *pro re nata*) Administration of prescribed medication on an as needed basis; as necessary rather than a fixed schedule.

**Protocol**: An organizationally approved guide for practice that is to be implemented by health care professionals managing specific client health needs in their practice environment.

**Range dose**: Medication orders prescribed for clients requiring flexibility in their medication treatment.

**Rights and checks**: See “Medication Rights and Checks” in Module 3 for expanded definition.

**Schedule 1**: Drugs that require a prescription as a condition of sale, and in a pharmacy must be stored and sold only in the dispensary. Drugs in this schedule include all federally scheduled drugs and certain others, some of which are specific to Alberta. The latter may appear to be non-prescription drugs (as there will be no symbol directly on the drug label).

**Schedule 2**: Drugs that do not require a prescription as a condition of sale but are only available from the pharmacist. There is no opportunity for client self-selection as drugs are stored and sold in the dispensary.

**Schedule 3**: Drugs that are available without a prescription from the self-selection area of a pharmacy. Although no prescription is required, they can only be sold from a licensed pharmacy or an institution pharmacy.

**Transcribing/Transcription**: The process of writing down or copying the medication order given by the authorized prescriber. This order can be verbal, paper-based, or in electronic form.

**Unscheduled**: Drugs not listed in Schedule 1, 2 or 3 that may be sold from any retail outlet.