

## 8 types of Medication Administration

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We take medications to diagnose, treat, or prevent illness. They come in lots of different forms and we take them in many different ways. You may take a drug yourself, or a healthcare provider may provide it to you.

The route which provides a drug depends on three main factors:

- The part of the body being treated
- The way the drug works within the body
- The formula of the drug.

### Training in medication administration

Not all types of medications can be administered at home or by someone without special training. Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers are trained in the way to offer you medication safely.

Administration of medication requires thorough understanding the drug, including how it moves through your body when it needs to be administered and possible side effects and dangerous reactions including proper storage, handling, and disposal.

Healthcare providers are trained altogether of those issues. In fact, many healthcare providers confine mind the “five rights” once they administer drugs:

- The right patient
- The right drug
- The right time
- The right dose
- The right route

### Dosage and timing

It's important to require only the dosage described within the prescription label or other instructions. Dosage is carefully determined by your doctor and may be suffering from your age, weight, kidney and liver health, and other health conditions.

For some medications, dosage must be determined by trial and error. In these cases, your healthcare provider would wish to watch you once you first start treatment.

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## Rights of Medication Administration

### Right patient

- Check the name on the order and therefore the patient.
- Use 2 identifiers.
- Ask patient to identify himself/herself.
- When available, use technology (for example, bar-code system).

### Right medication

- Check the medication label.
- Check the order.

### Right dose

- Check the order.
- Confirm appropriateness of the dose employing a current drug reference.
- If necessary, calculate the dose and have another nurse calculate the dose also.

### Right route

- Again, check the order and appropriateness of the route ordered.
- Confirm that the patient can take or receive the medication by the ordered route.

### Right time

- Check the frequency of the ordered medication.
- Double-check that you are giving the ordered dose at the correct time.
- Confirm when the last dose was given.

### Right documentation

Chart the time, route, and the other specific information as necessary. For example, the site of an injection or any laboratory value or vital sign that needed to be checked before giving the drug.

### Right reason

Confirm the rationale for the ordered medication. What is the patient's history? Why is he/she taking this medication? Revisit the reasons for long-term medication use.

### Right response

- Make sure that the drug led to the specified effect. If an antihypertensive was given, has his/her vital sign improved? Does the patient verbalize improvement in depression while on an antidepressant?
- Be sure to document your monitoring of the patient and the other nursing interventions that are applicable.

