

Administration of medicines in Patients' own homes



Purpose of this procedure:

Medicines administered in the domiciliary setting by NHS Lothian staff must be recorded in the patient's record.

The Procedure:

Medicines supplied on prescription remain the property of the individual for whom they have been prescribed.

- 1.0 On occasions, there may be a cause for concern regarding the safety of the patient, or the custody of the medicines. In such cases, nurses should be aware of their professional responsibilities and should consult the patient's GP in order that suitable alternative arrangements can be made.
- 2.0 Nurses and other clinical staff have a responsibility for assisting in the education of the public regarding the safe custody and administration of medicines. Patients should be advised that all medicines require careful storage and that prescribed medicines should not be made available to persons other than the patient for whom they are prescribed. All unused medicines should be returned to the Community Pharmacy for safe disposal.
- 3.0 In the community setting, medication may have to be administered from the instructions given on the container labelled by pharmacy. In this situation full administration instructions must be detailed on the label, or in the individual patient instruction chart. 'As directed by doctor' is not an appropriate instruction

Associated materials/references:

[The Safe Use of Medicines Policy](#)