

Self administration of medicines by patients in hospital not yet reviewed by a doctor



Purpose of this procedure:

On occasions there may be a delay in a patient being reviewed by a healthcare professional which may result in a delay in obtaining medicines which could have a major impact on a patient's wellbeing.

The Procedure:

1.0 Emergency admissions

1.1 The nurse responsible for the patients care must

- advise the patient not to take any medicine until the doctor has been consulted
- store the patient's own medicines in a secure area or remain with the patient where appropriate.
- check whether the patient is due to take a dose of any medicine, or needs an 'as required' medicine to relieve symptoms. If any dose is required before the doctor is due to review the patient, inform the doctor, who is responsible for ensuring that a prescription is written. Medicines must not be administered before the prescription is written.

2.0 Elective admissions

2.1 The nurse responsible for the patient's care must advise the patient to continue to self-administer medicines in line with the pre-admission advice given.

2.2 If the patient is not clear about the pre-admission advice, or has not received pre-admission advice about his/her medicines, the nurse responsible for the patient's care must check approved protocols and advise the patient accordingly.

2.3 If a patient requires to self-administer medicines before a prescription is written, ensure that he/she keeps a record of what has been taken which is then documented in the patient's record.

2.4 If the patient is not able to self administer, or does not have his/her own medicines, or there is no clear advice available in approved protocols, the nurse responsible for the patient's care must:

- advise the patient not to take any medicine until the doctor has been consulted
- store any patients own medicines in a secure area
- check whether the patient is due to take a dose of any medicine, or needs an 'as required' medicine to relieve symptoms. If any dose is required before the doctor is due to review the patient, inform the doctor, who is responsible for ensuring that a prescription is written. Medicines must not be administered before the prescription is written.

Associated materials/references:

[The Safe Use of Medicines Policy](#)