

MEDICATION SAFETY

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Quality Assurance Unit • 602-771-8122

MEDICATION SAFETY is a process by which individuals are assisted in managing their medications in a safe and effective manner; preventing mistakes and supporting independence.

SOME FACTS about MEDICATION SAFETY



- Managing medications can be difficult and mistakes can happen.
- Taking the wrong dose or amount of a medication is the most common mistake.
- Taking the wrong amount accounts for 41% of deaths related to medications.
- Individuals who are elderly, frail, or have special needs are more likely to have a serious reaction to a medication mistake.

RISK FACTORS (Alerts)



Recognition of the following conditions will help alert you to potential risks:

- **DISTRACTED CAREGIVER:** Doing other things or multiple tasks while assisting with medications
- **UNATTENDED MEDICATION:** Poor storage, such as open carts and drawers
- **POOR HYGIENE:** Failing to follow and/or assist the individual with good hand washing habits
- **DISORGANIZATION:** Messy medication storage and/or medication records
- **UNLABELED:** Medications placed in baggies or unmarked containers
- **NO DOCUMENTATION:** No record that shows when a dose has already been taken by an individual

WHAT to WATCH FOR



Give assistance as needed to ensure that the following "SIX RIGHTS" are completed:

- 1 **RIGHT PERSON**
 - Make sure the correct person is taking the right medication.
- 2 **RIGHT TIME**
 - Check the bottle or prescription for the right time (AM, PM, Bedtime, etc.).
- 3 **RIGHT MEDICINE**
 - Check the bottle or package for the medication name.
- 4 **RIGHT DOSE**
 - Ensure only the amount ordered on the prescription or package is taken.
- 5 **RIGHT ROUTE**
 - Ensure the medication is taken as ordered (by mouth, by feeding tube, on the skin, etc.).
- 6 **RIGHT DOCUMENTATION**
 - Initial or mark the medication sheet or record after the dose is taken.

WHAT TO DO

STEPS FOR ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS WITH MEDICATIONS:

- ☑ Encourage and assist hand washing
- ☑ Help gather the necessary items and prompt or assist as needed
- ☑ Confirm the following for each medication:
 - RIGHT PERSON ● RIGHT TIME ● RIGHT DOSE ● RIGHT ROUTE
- ☑ Support the individual in maintaining privacy
- ☑ Check for known Medication Allergies
- ☑ Ensure all doses taken are documented per agency policy and procedures
- ☑ Provide assistance as necessary to clean, store, and/or dispose of equipment properly
- ☑ Help correct any medication storage issues by encouraging the proper disposal of any expired or unlabeled medications



Banner Good Samaritan Poison & Drug Information Center
is a national leader in poison care and prevention.

FREE EMERGENCY PHONE LINE
1-800-222-1222 (24 Hours)

http://www.bannerhealth.com/Locations/Arizona/Banner+Good+Samaritan+Poison+and+Drug+Information+Center/About+Us/_Mission+statement.htm



EMERGENCY

Immediately call 9-1-1 when any of the following conditions occur:

- DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- BLEEDING
- LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS
- EXCESSIVE PAIN
- CHANGE IN ALERTNESS OR ABILITY TO PAY ATTEN-



MEDICATIONS SAFETY INFORMATION FACT SHEET is #2 in a series of SAFETY INFORMATION FACT SHEETS compiled by the DDD Quality Assurance Unit. Fact Sheets are available upon request and posted on the Division's Website: https://www.azdes.gov/developmental_disabilities/ (Click on "News & Events"). Issued July 2013

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