

## GUIDANCE NOTES: '2 PERSON MEDICINE ROUNDS'

(Standards for Medicine Management: NMC 2010)

### FOREWORD

The Medicine Chart is **not** a prescription but a direction to administer medication.

It must be signed by a registered prescriber which then authorises the delegation to administer medication on the prescriber's behalf. In doing so the registered nurse is accountable for their actions and for raising any concerns about the direction with the prescriber.

- **Role of the Nurse:**

#### **Nurse 1**

The registrant who has been delegated with the task to undertake a medicine round **will be the lead in the '2 person medicine round' and is accountable for their actions and omissions.**

It is this registrant who must check the direction stipulated on the Medicine Chart to administer the medicine product and sign the document accordingly.

This nurse will be referred in these guidance notes hereafter, as '**Nurse 1**'

#### **Nurse 2**

The second nurse of the '*2 person medicine round*' will have the primary role of assisting and supporting Nurse 1.

This nurse may be a:

- Student Nurse
- Assistant Practitioner
- Support Worker
- Healthcare Assistant
- Registered Nurse

This nurse will be referred in these guidance notes hereafter, as '**Nurse 2**'

- **Responsibility & Accountability:**

In administering any medications, Nurse 1 must exercise their professional judgement and apply their skills & knowledge to the given situation.

Nurse 1 is responsible for:

- the delegation of any aspect of the administration of medicines and is accountable for ensuring that Nurse 2, if not an NMC registrant, is competent to carry out the given task
- where student nurses undertake the role of Nurse 2: Nurse 1 will provide direct supervision; however, Nurse 1 must allow opportunities for Nurse 2 to participate in the administration of medicines and as the student nurse progresses through their training,

Nurse 1, in reflection of the student nurse competence, may reduce supervision to indirect supervision

- where a healthcare assistant or assistant practitioner undertake the role of Nurse 2: Nurse 1 will apply the principles of administration by way of checking the direction to administer, consequently, the healthcare assistant or assistant practitioner may undertake the delegated role and assist the patient in the administration of medicines
- It is unacceptable to omit a medicine, if this does occur, Nurse 1 **MUST** always follow up and document actions as appropriate.
- the management of any medicine round adverse event that occurs, ensuring that all incidents, including omission of medicines, are reported on the DATIX incident reporting system upon completion of the round
- ensuring prescription anomalies that are identified during a medicine round are reported, addressed and documented accordingly

**Please Note:**

- When administering parenteral (injectable) medications, both 'Nurse 1' and 'Nurse 2' must be registrants
- **NEVER** prepare substances for injection in advance of their immediate use
- **NEVER** administer medication drawn with a syringe or container by another practitioner when not in their presence
- **NEVER** administer any medication that has not been recorded/documentated on the Medicine Chart

**\*\*ALWAYS REMEMBER\*\***

**Your principles of Medicine Safety are to protect the safety of your patients!**

**'Right Patient'**

**'Right Medication'**

**'Right Dose'**

**'Right Time'**

**'Right Route'**

**'wRite it Down'**

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