

The Registered Nurse's Role in the Prevention of Errors in the Preparation and Administration of IV Medication to Infants and Children

Background

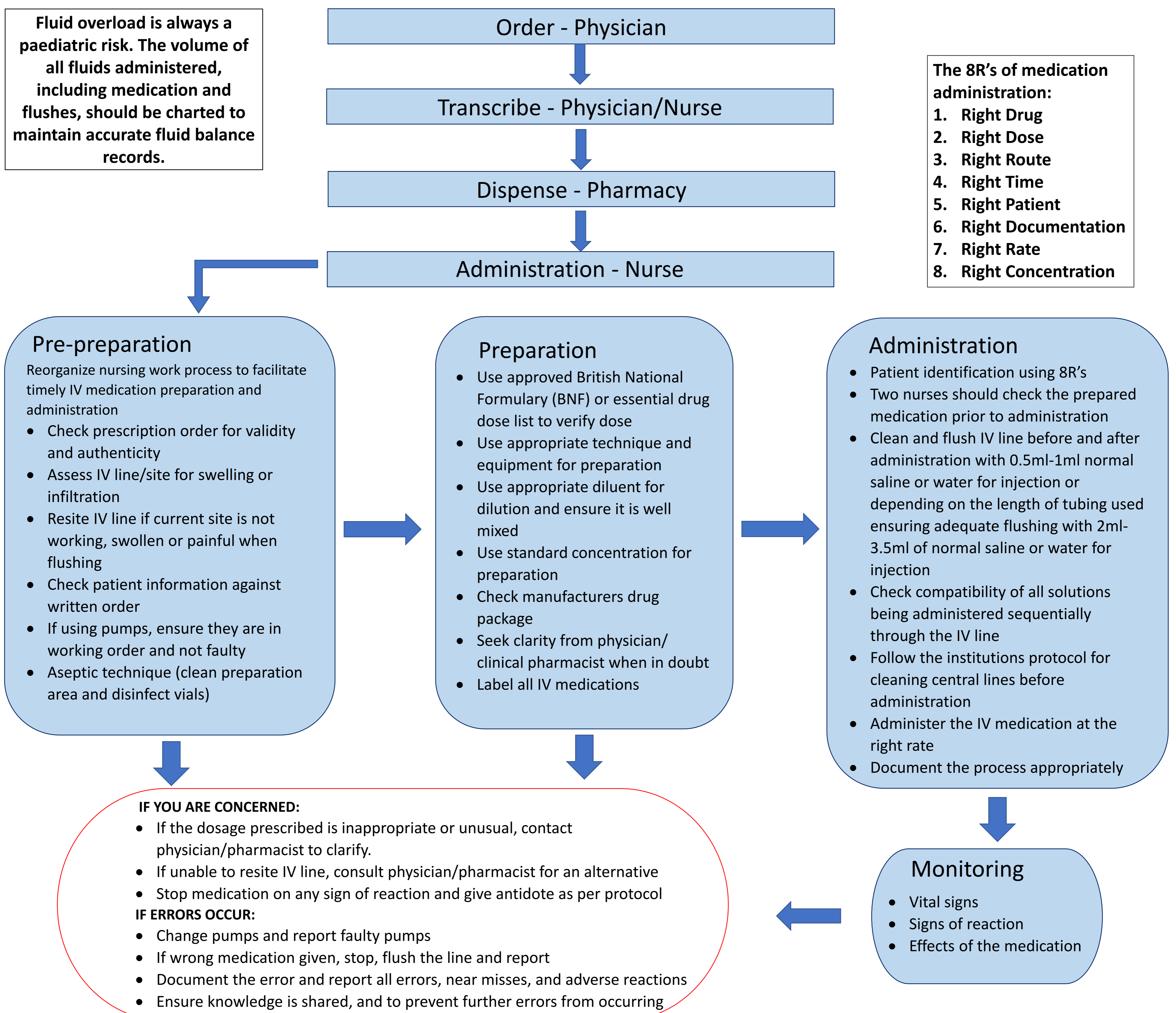
- IV medication preparation and administration errors are considered a global problem that increases morbidity and mortality rates, length of hospital stay, adverse drug events and related cost for clinicians and the health system.
- Studies have found that errors in preparation and administration of paediatric IV medication account for between 8% and 63% of all drug errors.
- One-third of the medication errors that harm patients occurring during the nurse preparation and administration phase and children are three times more likely to suffer harm due to IV medication errors than adults.

Purpose

- To develop an evidence-based practice guideline that could be used by all registered nurses working with infants and children in low resource countries, to reduce errors in IV drug preparation and administration in the care of children.
- This guideline was developed through a topic-specific scope review to identify evidence relating to each aspect of care and the identification, appraisal and contextual adaptation of existing guidelines produced by international advanced nurse practitioners and professional societies.

Flow chart for IV medication preparation and administration

This flow chart is to be used in conjunction with the full evidence-based practice guideline (available from the author) and appropriate staff education and training.



References:

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