

The nurse's role in partnering with mothers to give oral medication to their hospitalised child: Supporting tools and resources.

Andrea Amos and Nadia Harris (2020)

Prior to implementing this guideline, the nurse with overall responsibility for medicines management on the ward should agree a list of medications with the head pharmacist, the head clinician and the nursing unit manager on which medications can and cannot be handed to mothers for administration to their children. The overall responsibility for administration of oral medication in the ward belongs to the nurse. The nurse will have continuing responsibility for recognising and acting upon changes in a patient's condition, regardless of the mother/carer's participation in the process.

The tools below should be reviewed and modified as necessary prior to implementation. This document should be used in conjunction with recommendations available from Open UCT at https://vula.uct.ac.za/access/content/group/9c29ba04-b1ee-49b9-8c85-9a468b556ce2/MNCN/MNCN_1_.html

Suggested inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria

1. All mothers/ carers admitted into the pediatric unit with their hospitalised child who meet all assessment requirements and have signed informed consent.

Exclusion Criteria

1. Any mother/ carer not willing to participate or not comfortable with the process of administration of oral medication to their hospitalised child.
2. Any mother/carer who feels physically unwell or does not feel psychologically suitable to administer oral medication to their hospitalised child.
3. Any mother/carer who has been educated and assessed twice and fails to meet all the requirements of the assessment (Tool 1).
4. Mothers/ carers of children who are currently critically ill, currently unstable (e.g., post-operative periods), or any child who has deteriorated in their condition will be excluded.
5. Any mother/ carer who has a child who is currently on medication only suitable to be administered by a competent nurse (using locally agreed list) and/or the child requires continuous observation of the effects of medication.

Tool 1: Assessment of mother's/carer's competence and readiness to partner in giving medication to their child

Instructions: Competent nurse to complete in order to assess the ability of mother/carer to partner in giving oral medication to their hospitalized child. The mother/carer must be able to understand/perform each step indicated below prior to giving medication to their hospitalized child.			
Name of mother/carer:		AGE:	ROOM, UNIT, BED No:
Assessment criteria		Unable	Able with assistance
1.	Mother/carer can correctly identify by sight and name the oral medication		
2.	Mother / carer correctly understands the use and can correctly state the use of each medication.		
3.	Can correctly state what time medication should be taken.		
4.	Can correctly state the proper dosage of each medication		
5.	Mother/carer can correctly display understanding of important information about the medication; the side-effects, signs of allergic reactions.		
6.	Mother/carer demonstrates the ability to correctly give oral medication to their hospitalized child.		
7.	The mother/carer displays understanding of how to immediately report to the nurse if any abnormalities occur whilst giving their child oral medication in the ward.		
8.	How to report any issues a mother/carer may have concerning the administration of the oral medication to their hospitalized child.		
List medication, dosages and time			
Medication _____ Time ____ Dosage _____		Medication _____ Time ____ Dosage _____	
Medication _____ Time ____ Dosage _____		Medication _____ Time ____ Dosage _____	
ASSESSMENT RESULTS			
I (name of nurse) _____ confirm that (name of mother/carer) _____ has received the training detailed above and is deemed competent and able to safely administer oral medication to (name of child) _____ as required. OR I (name of nurse) _____ confirm that the (name of mother/carer) _____ is deemed unable to safely administer medication.			
Date Training Completed:		Training Provided By:	
I confirm that I have received the training detailed above			
Mom/carer Signature: _____ Date: _____ Next medicine review will be on: _____			

Tool 2 Education

How the medicines should be given

Verbal explanations will be given to the mother/carer by a competent nurse regarding how to give oral medication to their hospitalised child. The information should be given in a language and a style that each mother/ carer can understand well and repeated as many times as needed (on at least two occasions) until mother/ carer demonstrates a clear understanding of the following:

1. The name of oral medications to be given.
2. The dosage of medications to be given.
3. The reasons (uses) of the medication that is being given.
4. The times the oral medication is to be given to the child.
5. Important information to remember about the medication, the side - effects and signs of allergic reactions.
6. Mother/carer taught how to administer oral medication to their hospitalized child.
7. Immediate reporting to the nurse if any abnormalities occur whilst giving their child oral medication in the ward.
8. How to report any issues a mother/ carer may have concerning the administration of the oral medication to their hospitalized child.

Adapted from: Guy's and St. Thomas'- NHS Foundation Trust. (2018). Clinical Guideline/Protocol for self/carer administration of medicines to adults and paediatric patients.

Example of verbal information for mothers about how their child's medication should be given

The name of oral medications to be given.	The reasons (uses) of the medication that is being given.	The dosage and time for giving medication	Side Effects and possible side - allergic of medication
E.g. Amoxicillin	Amoxicillin is used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections. It works by stopping the growth of bacteria. This antibiotic treats only bacterial infections. It will not work for viral infections	125mg/ 250mg twice a day. OR 5mls/ 10mls twice a day.	Side - effects: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. Serious allergic reactions may include rash all over the body (immediately inform the nurse).

Adapted from: Guideline on Medication Management in Residential Care Facilities for Older Persons, 2011 - in line with SANC Acts/Regulations

Tool 3 Tick Sheet: Mother/carer's record of giving oral medication

Patient Name:					Mother/carer Name:					Month and Year:															
Medicine name:	Day 1/Date:				Day 2/ Date:			Day 3/ Date:			Day 4 / Date:			Day 5/ Date:			Day 6/ Date:			Day 7/Date:					
	Time:				Time:			Time:			Time:			Time:			Time:			Time:					
Medicine name:	Day 8 / Date:				Day 9/ Date:			Day 10/ Date:			Day 11/ Date:			Day 12/ Date:			Day 13/ Date:			Day 14/ Date:					
	Time:				Time:			Time:			Time:			Time:			Time:			Time:					

(Adapted from Medication Management in Residential Care Facilities for Older Persons – November 2011)

Orange division line after every 3rd day indicates when the mother should be reassessed