

The nurse's role in partnering with mothers/carers to give oral medication to their hospitalised child

Background

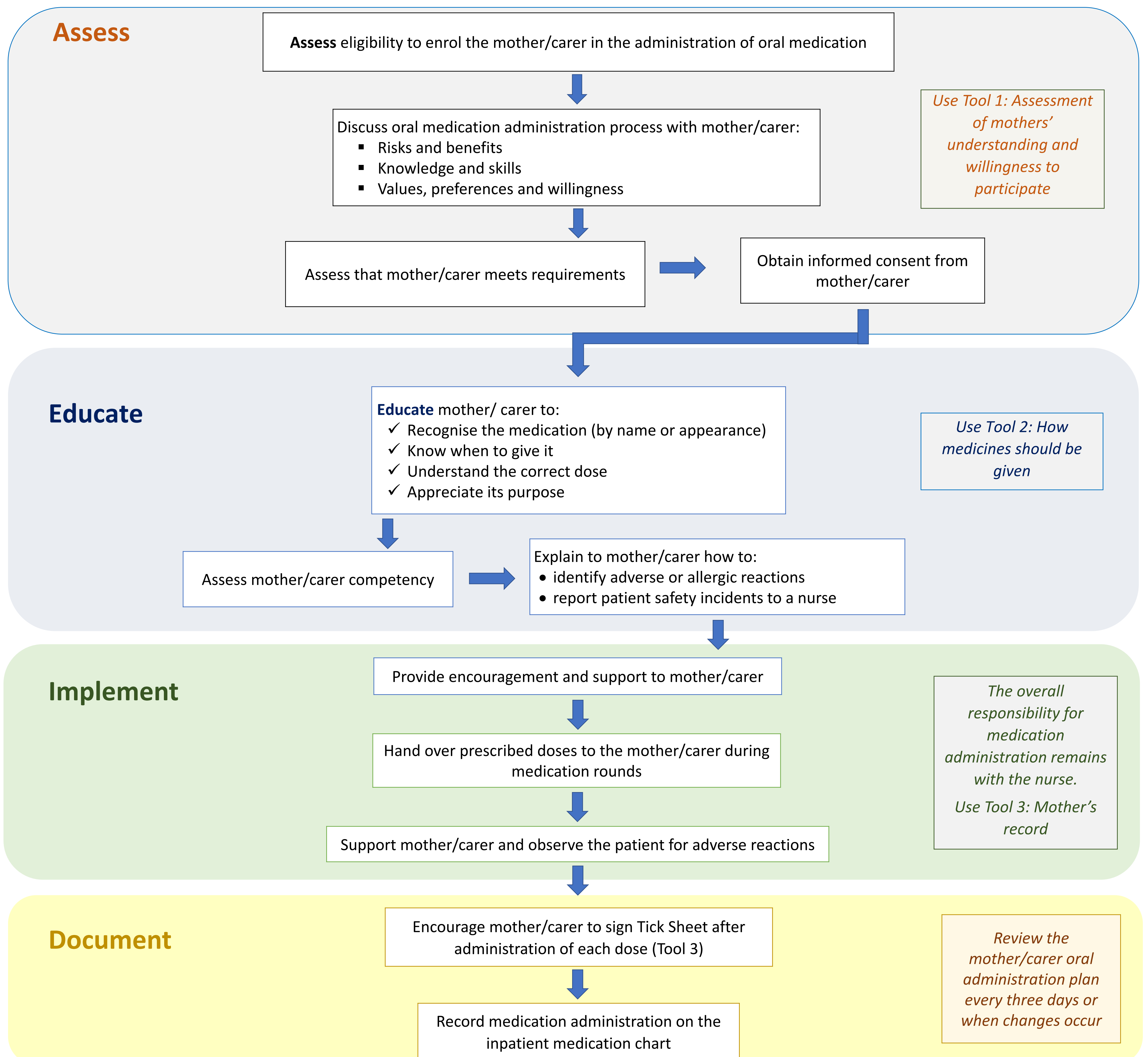
- Adverse drug events and potential adverse drug events represent a considerable hazard for the paediatric inpatient population¹.
- Children are often reluctant to receive medication from nurses and eventually medication is given by the parents².
- Current practice in many wards is for nurses to hand over medication to mothers to give to their children, but this is an 'informal' practice and lacks evidence-based guidelines³.

Purpose

- Develop a contextualised and adapted evidence-based guideline to enable nurses to partner with mothers/carers, for the mother/carer to safely give oral medication to their hospitalised child under the supervision of a competent nurse.
- Good medicines management is essential for high standards of clinical care.

Flow chart for partnering to give oral medication in paediatric wards

This flow chart summarises nursing actions and is to be used in conjunction with the full evidence-based practice guideline (available from the authors) and appropriate staff education and training. Details of the suggested tools and resources to assist with education and record keeping can be found at https://vula.uct.ac.za/access/content/group/9c29ba04-b1ee-49b9-8c85-9a468b556ce2/MNCN/MNCN_1_.html



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