



Documentation Of Drug Reactions/Allergies Procedure

Procedure Number
WCDHB-PN-0039

Version Nos:
7

1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the process for the documenting of drug reactions and allergies that are experienced by patients.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all nursing staff throughout the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB).

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) is taken to mean an intolerance to medications administered in their usual doses.

Allergy is taken to mean a damaging immune response by the body to a substance to which it has become hypersensitive

CARM - is taken to mean the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring. CARM is the national monitoring centre for adverse reactions to medicines in New Zealand. Reactions that should be reported through CARM are those which are serious, unexpected, of clinically significant concern, and those involving new medicines. In addition CARM uses aggregated information about adverse reactions and interactions to known and new medicines to improve medications information and ultimately improve patient safety. More information can be obtained at carm.otago.ac.nz.

Note: Although adverse reactions reported through CARM trigger an alert notification through the national NHI system, updated regularly through the DHB's electronic information systems, this cannot be taken to be full and complete. It should be viewed alongside information generated locally, and from the patient and their family.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this procedure:

Nursing and Medical staff are to:

- Ensure known reactions or allergies are documented on the medication chart
- Ensure coloured ID bracelet is issued where there are known allergies or reactions
- Ensure new allergies or reactions are documented and an incident report completed
- Notify the pharmacy

Pharmacy Department is to:

- Advise around necessary steps to minimise risk where new allergies or reactions are noted
- Complete notification to CARM



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5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Patient's medical record (including medication chart)
- ii) WCDHB Accident/Incident Report Form
- iii) CARM Adverse Reactions Reporting form (or online access)
- iv) Coloured wrist identification band
- v) Red Hat

6. Process

1.00 Previous Reactions And Allergies

- 1.01 The staff member recording the medication history of the patient, ensures known reactions or allergies are documented on the medication chart. This includes
- i) Any drug or substance the patient has reacted to
 - ii) Details of the reaction and its severity
- 1.02 If there are known reactions or allergies, a coloured hospital ID bracelet is issued as a visual alert
- 1.03 In the Operating Theatre , a red hat is put on patients in reception when they have an identified allergy.

2.00 New Medication Reactions Or Allergies

- 2.01 Where a patient shows signs of a drug reaction or allergy, the first priority is the safety and well being of the patient
- 2.02 After the patient has been cared for, the drug reaction/allergy is to be recorded in the patient's medical record, noting the medication involved, and the reaction on both the
- Medication chart and
 - Clinical notes
- 2.03 A WCDHB Incident Form is to be completed, (Incident type is to be recorded as "medication other"), indicating that this is a medication reaction and giving full details in the incident description.
- 2.04 The incident form will be sent to pharmacy to ensure all necessary steps have been taken to minimise further reactions, and for notification to CARM before being sent to the Incident Review Group Coordinator.



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7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ It is the responsibility of the staff member recording the patient's medical history to document in the patient's medical record any drug allergies.
- ➔ Any incident of a drug reaction or allergy is to be documented in the patient's medical record and on a WCDHB Incident Form.

8. References

- Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights (1995)
- Health Practitioners Competence Assurance ACT 2003
- New Zealand Nursing Council Code of Conduct for Nurses and Midwives (1995)
- Health Act (1956)
- Hospitals Act (1957)
- Hospitals Regulations (1993)
- Medicines Act (1981)
- Medicines Regulations (1984)
- Misuse of Drugs Act (1975) and Amendments
- Misuse of Drug Regulations (1977)

9. Related Documents

- WCDHB Administration of Medications by Students Procedure
- WCDHB Administration of Medications Procedure
- WCDHB Controlled Drugs Procedure
- WCDHB Emergency Orders and Verbal Orders Procedure
- WCDHB Incident Reporting Procedure
- WCDHB Medication Errors Procedure
- WCDHB Medication For On-Leave Patients Procedure
- WCDHB Medication Policy
- WCDHB Nurse Initiated Medication Procedure
- WCDHB Nursing Standards
- WCDHB Practice Development Programme
- WCDHB Refusal of Medications by Patients Procedures
- WCDHB Self-Medicating Patients
- WCDHB Use of Traditional and Alternative Medications Procedure

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