



Self-Medicating Patients Procedure

Procedure Number
WCDHB-PN-0044

Version Nos:
6

1. Purpose

This Procedure is performed as a means of ensuring the safe administration of therapeutic medication to patients in accordance with all legislative and regulatory requirements.

2. Application

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

3. Definitions

There are no definitions associated with this Procedure.

4. Staff Authorised To Perform Procedure

This Procedure shall be performed by a:

- i) Registered nurse (RN); or
- ii) Nurse assistant/enrolled nurse under direction; or
- iii) Student nurse under direction of RN.

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Prescribed medication;
- ii) WCDHB Prescription/patient medication chart/sheet

6. Process

1.00 Self Medicating With Medication On Admission

- 1.01 Patients considered appropriate and safe by their admitting doctor may continue to self-medicate with their own medications.
- 1.02 All medications must be charted in the patient's medical record by a doctor.
- 1.03 All medication labels must be checked against prescription before patient can self medicate.
- 1.04 Any medications not appropriately labelled will be relabelled by Pharmacy staff.
- 1.05 Any patient that a nurse, doctor or pharmacist feels is not able or safe to self-medicate at any time after they have been admitted shall have their medications removed from them and stored in the drugs trolley, and are to be administered by the nursing staff. This action must be documented in the patient's medical record.
- 1.06 Medicines for self-medication patients are to be stored securely.



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- 1.07 The patient's nurse is required to check that the patient has taken their medication and record this in the patient's medical record.
- 1.08 Any medication brought into the hospital by the patient shall be returned to the patient upon their discharge. If however, a particular medication has been discontinued during the patient's admission to hospital, every endeavour must be taken to prevent the patient from taking the medication with them when they are discharged from the hospital. Any discontinued medication must be returned to the Pharmacy.

2.00 Self Medication Prior To Discharge

- 2.01 Patients considered appropriate and safe by their multi-disciplinary team may self medication prior to discharge.
- 2.02 All medications must be charted in the patient's medical record by their doctor.
- 2.03 All medications must be dispensed by Pharmacy and appropriate education given to the patient.
- 2.04 Medication is to be stored securely.
- 2.05 The patient's nurse is required to check that the patient has taken their medications and record this in the patient's medical record.
- 2.06 Any patient that a nurse, doctor, or pharmacist believes is not capable of self medicating at any time after commencing self medication, is to have their medications removed from them and stored in the drugs trolley. The patient is to have their medication administered by nursing staff. This action is to be documented in the patient's medical record.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ Patients considered appropriate and safe by their admitting doctor may continue to self-medicate with their own medications.
- ➔ The patient's nurse is required to check that the patient has taken their medication and record this in the patient's medical record.

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)



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9. Related Documents

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

Revision History	Version:	6
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