



Use Of Traditional And Alternative Medications Procedure

Procedure Number
WCDHB-PN-0045

Version Nos:
5

1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the process to be followed where patients of the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) wish to use medicines recommended by non-medical staff during a course of treatment.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all nursing staff throughout WCDHB.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Traditional and Alternative Medicines is taken to mean those medications that are used by cultural/ethnic groups and are recommended by non-medical staff.

4. Staff Authorised To Perform Procedure

This Procedure shall be performed by a:

- i) Registered nurse (RN)/midwife

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Patient's medical record.

6. Process

- 1.01 Patients may use traditional and/or alternative medicine that have been recommended by non-medical individuals during a course of treatment they are receiving from WCDHB only after consultation with Pharmacy and medical staff. The outcome is to be documented in the patient's medical record.
- 1.02 The doctor responsible for the patient's care is to request the following information so that advice can be given as to whether the traditional and/or alternative medicine may interfere with the treatment being provided by WCDHB:
 - i) rationale for the traditional and/or alternative medicine;
 - ii) treatment details;
 - iii) composition of the traditional and/or alternative medicine;
 - iv) any possible side effects;
 - v) any possible drug interactions
 - vi) contact person from whom further details can be obtained.



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7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ Patients may use traditional and/or alternative medicine
- ➔ The doctor responsible for their care is to be informed, and the wishes of the patient documented in their medical record, before any treatment takes place or the medicine is given.

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)
Misuse of Drug Regulations (1977)

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Administration of Medications Procedure
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 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

Revision History	Version:	5
	Developed By:	Senior Nurses
	Authorised By:	Director of Nursing & Midwifery
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