

## Workforce competence statement

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### Injectable medicines competence 4

## Monitoring the administration of injectable medicines

<b>Summary</b>	This proposed workforce competence covers monitoring the administration of injectable medicines for adults or children. It includes the initiation and delivery of a monitoring regimen.
<b>Indicative links to KSF Dimension &amp; Level</b>	<i>Health and wellbeing HWB7: Interventions and treatments</i> <i>Level 3: Plan, deliver and evaluate interventions and/or treatments</i>
<b>Origin</b>	This is a new workforce competence proposed and developed by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA).
<b>Activity scope</b>	<p><b>Key words and concepts</b></p> <p><i>Prescription</i> The document which describes the medication determined by a properly authorised individual for an individually named patient. It includes the medication to be used, the dose, dilution, mode of delivery and time period for delivery.</p> <p><i>Monitoring regimen</i> A systematic plan for observing the physiological impact of prescribed medication therapy, enabling subsequent adjustment to maintain or improve the health of a patient.</p> <p><i>Communication</i> with professional colleagues includes communication within and between appropriate members of teams.</p> <p><i>Appropriate members of the team</i> Include: registered nurse, midwife, doctor, pharmacist, laboratory scientific officer and phlebotomist or any other member of the healthcare team.</p> <p><i>Adverse reactions related to any fluid or drugs given through a cannula</i> Include: neurogenic, anaphylactic and hypovolaemic shock, cardiogenic shock, septic shock and allergy.</p>
<b>Performance criteria</b>	<p><b>You need to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read the patient's notes, prescription and relevant protocol or clinical guideline and note any previously identified special instructions, investigations (including abnormal blood test results), baseline parameters such as weight, or issues for which you need to seek advice. The arrangements for fluid balance or clinical monitoring should be made on an individual basis and according to local protocol and clinical need.</li> <li>2. Assess the appropriateness of the intended treatment against the patient's current health status and concurrent medication.</li> <li>3. Refer to technical information relating to the injectable medication being prescribed and identify any monitoring recommendations for which you need to seek advice.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Determine the appropriate regimen for the patient and include both type and frequency of monitoring activity. Give consideration to fluid balance, potential effect of interaction between concurrent medications, adverse reactions, access site, laboratory tests and physical parameters, for example, weight.</li> <li>5. Record requirements for monitoring the patient's response to treatment and record the reason(s) for any deviations from the clinical guidelines in the patient's notes. Communicate requirements to professional colleagues.</li> <li>6. Explain the treatment and potential side effects, monitoring regimen and their management to the patient and/or carer and accurately answer any questions at a level and pace that is appropriate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their level of understanding;</li> <li>• their culture and background;</li> <li>• their preferred ways of communicating;</li> <li>• their needs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Check that the patient and/or carer understand the treatment to be given and any potential side effects together with their management. Communicate the role that the patient and/or carer can play in the early alert of staff to adverse reactions to medication therapy and how this assists the monitoring process.</li> <li>8. Ensure that local arrangements are in place to deliver the monitoring regimen requested according to local policy.</li> <li>9. Record the results of monitoring in the patient's notes, on the prescription chart, or on the monitoring chart according to local policy.</li> <li>10. Communicate results of monitoring to members of the clinical team and ensure that any deviations from expected monitoring results are communicated in a timely way to appropriate members of the team so that action can be taken.</li> <li>11. Modify any subsequent prescriptions in light of the patient's tolerance, side effects, adverse reactions, complications and response to treatment.</li> <li>12. Communicate with appropriate professional colleagues as required by local guidelines.</li> <li>13. Recognise when you need help and seek advice and support from an appropriate source when the needs of the individual and the complexity of the case are beyond your competence and capability.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Knowledge and understanding</b></p>	<p><b>You need to apply:</b></p> <p><i>Legislation, regulations and guidelines</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An in-depth understanding of national and local injectable medication therapy guidelines and their application.</li> <li>2. A working understanding of the local guidelines for patient records, their storage and confidentiality of information.</li> <li>3. An in-depth understanding of the national and local prescribing guidelines.</li> <li>4. A working understanding of the Guidelines on the Administration of Medicines.</li> <li>5. A working understanding of local guidelines for waste and sharps handling and disposal.</li> </ol>

	<p>6. A working understanding of risk management, patient safety principles and causes of medication errors.</p> <p><i>Clinical knowledge</i></p> <p>7. A working understanding of the disease progression and the potential impact on physiological systems.</p> <p>8. A working understanding of the relevance of other treatment modalities and clinical conditions.</p> <p>9. An in-depth understanding of diagnosis, care plan, protocol and guidelines.</p> <p>10. An in-depth understanding of principles and practice of prescribing injectable medication therapy.</p> <p>11. An in-depth understanding of the indications and contraindications for injectable medication therapy.</p> <p>12. An in-depth understanding of drug calculations appropriate to the prescribed injectable medication; dose dilution and length of delivery.</p> <p>13. An in-depth understanding of the side effects of injectable medicines, and their assessment, monitoring, prevention and management.</p> <p><i>Technical knowledge</i></p> <p>14. A working understanding of different venous access devices and their care.</p> <p>15. A working understanding of administration by the subcutaneous route, and intravenous bolus and/or infusions.</p> <p><i>Procedures and patient management</i></p> <p>16. A factual knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of other team members.</p> <p>17. A working understanding of the limits of one's own knowledge and experience, and the importance of not operating beyond these.</p>
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