

IREDELL HEALTH SYSTEM

Self-Administration of Medications	
Approved by: Cherie L. Smith, PhD, MBA, RN, RN-BC Randi Raynor, PharmD, MBA, BCPS	Last Revised/Reviewed Date: 03/2021
Nurse Leadership P&T Committee	Date: 03/2021 Date: 04/2021

Outcome:

Self-administration of medications is limited and is performed safely and accurately.

Definition:

Self-administration - Administration of a medication by someone other than a staff member such as the patient or their representative (i.e. parent, foster parent, or guardian).

Policy

1. Self-administration of medications shall be discouraged.
2. A provider's order is required to allow the patient/patient representative to self-administer.
3. Self-administration of medications (i.e. throat lozenges, throat sprays, saline eye or nose drops) should be limited and should be based on the demonstrated competency of the person administering the medications.

Procedure:

1. A patient or their representative may request to self-administer his/her medications. A provider's order must be obtained in order for a patient/patient representative to self-administer medications.
2. Prior to the first dose of medication, the nurse shall review with the patient or their representative the following information:
 - a. the name of the medication and the indication for its use
 - b. the dose, route, and frequency, and if appropriate, the proper method of administration of the medication
 - c. the expected action and side effects of the medication
 - d. how to monitor the effects of the medication
3. Prior to self-administering of medication, the nurse will assess the competency of the patient or their representative to self-administer each medication by listening as the patient or their representative describes the medication regimen. Once competency has been determined, the nurse will document in the EMR the competency of the patient or their representative to self-administer the medication.
4. Training of the person administering the medication will be provided as needed and documented in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR).

4. When the patient or their representative self-administers a medication, the nurse will confirm that the medication was taken and will add a comment into the patient's Medication Administration Record (MAR).
5. If at any time the nurse determines that the patient or their representative is not competent to self-administer medications, the provider will be notified, and an order obtained for the nurse to administer all medications.
6. The medication(s) should be securely placed in the patient specific designated areas (i.e locked medication carts or locked patient bins in medication room) and shall be provided to the patient at the appropriate times.

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE: (go-live date or Board approval date)
DATES REVISIONS EFFECTIVE: 05/2016, 10/2019, 04/2021
DATES REVIEWED (no changes):

Index: Medications, Self