



Give it on time

Staff
briefing

Avoiding omitted and delayed doses of medicines

In 2010, DHSSPS issued a Rapid Response Report from the National Patient Safety Agency on *Reducing harm from omitted and delayed medicines in hospital*. A copy of the report is available at http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc_sqsd_3_10.pdf

This report highlights that omission or delay of medicine doses can lead to harm for patients, particularly when critical medicines* are involved. Critical medicines are those where timeliness of administration is crucial. A delay is a dose administered more than two hours beyond the prescribed time. An omitted dose is any dose that is not administered before the next dose is due.

Trust audit results

Critical medicines	
Anti-infectives (injectable route)	Corticosteroids
Anticoagulants	Opioids
Antiplatelets and thrombolytics (for acute indications)	Oxygen
Anticholinesterases	Immunoglobulin
Anticonvulsants	Immunosuppressants
Antiretrovirals	Insulin
Bronchodilator (injectable or nebulised route)	Parkinson's Disease medicines
Chemotherapy (injectable route)	Proton-pump inhibitors (injectable route)
Clozapine	'STAT' doses of any medicine (prescribed for immediate administration)
Resuscitation medicines including plasma expanders and reversal agents e.g. phytomenadione, naloxone, flumazenil, prothrombin complex	Desmopressin (cranial diabetes insipidus)

Action for all staff

Key points from trust audit results

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