



Give it on time

Avoiding omitted and delayed doses of medicines

Omission or delay of medicine doses can lead to harm for patients, particularly when critical medicines* are involved.

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.

Key points from trust audit

*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)

A critical medicine is a medicine where timeliness of administration is crucial. If a dose of a critical medicine* is omitted or delayed, report this on an IR1. Missing doses of critical medication compromises patient treatment, can be potentially harmful and may lengthen hospital stay.

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