Modified Medication Administration Training Course - Lesson 2

Lesson 2

This is lesson 2 of the Modified Medication Administration Training Course – The Medication Cycle.

Objectives Lesson 2

This lesson will teach you the 5 parts of the Medication Cycle and explain how they relate to each other. Your role in the Medication Cycle will also be defined.

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Name and use the 5 parts of the Medication Cycle.
- Explain how the 5 parts of the Medication Cycle are related to each other.
- Define your role in the Medication Cycle.

The Medication Cycle

Here you can see the 5 parts of the medication cycle: observation, reporting changes, visiting the health care practitioner, getting and storing medication, and administration and documentation. The medication cycle is a series of steps or actions that defines the management of medication in the treatment of health conditions.

You are a key player in the medication cycle and have a role in each step. It is important that you understand each step or action in the cycle as it guides your role and your responsibility in the health care of the individuals that you support.

The Medication Cycle: Observation

Observation is paying attention to and recognizing changes in the individuals that you support. This includes the ability to recognize how medications affect individuals. To ensure that the individual is responding to the medication in a beneficial way, you must watch the individual to identify their response to the medication. A change may be positive or may signal a problem and you are in a unique position to notice those changes.

Observations are a combination of objective information and subjective information. Using both objective information and subjective information provides a more comprehensive picture of the effects of medication.

- Objective information typically includes things that can be measured. Objective information also can be something you have directly observed.
- Subjective information is what an individual tells you about how they feel.

Your observations directly impact the treatment decisions that health care practitioners make. Inaccurate or incomplete information could result in an individual receiving medication that is not needed; increasing, decreasing or discontinuing medication inappropriately; or not getting medication that is needed.

The Medication Cycle: Reporting Changes

Reporting changes means communicating what you observe. It is important to accurately document your observations in order to help you and the health care practitioner see changes over time. Reporting may be done in various ways and is based on your actual observations. It is important to know to whom you must report and in what format according to your agency policies.

Some information will be communicated verbally, such as a call to a health care practitioner about an event like a fever. Other information can be written and summarized later to show a pattern of response or progress. This could be done in the form of a log, such as a seizure log that documents the frequency of seizures over time to identify whether a change in medication resulted in a decrease in the frequency of seizures.

The Medication Cycle: Visit to Health Care Practitioner

Communication for health care practitioner visits means taking information to the health care practitioner and bringing information back home. This will include the information you will need to administer medication as well as how you will communicate the effects of the medication to the health care practitioner.

The Medication Cycle

Getting and storing medication refers to the process by which a filled prescription is brought home from the pharmacy. The receipt of all medication must be recorded and its information documented on the medication record for use during medication administration. This process also involves where to safely keep the medication.

The Medication Cycle – Cont.

Administration and documentation is the actual process of giving the medication and documenting that you gave the medication on the medication record.

The Medication Cycle – Cont.

We begin the cycle again with observation as you watch the individual for changes related to the medication that you have administered.

It is important to remember that this is a cycle. Each step relies on the step before, moves into the next one and continues through the cycle. None of the steps can be left out and each step

must be done carefully to assure safe administration of the medication. Think about what might happen if any step of the cycle was omitted.
Remember that the medication cycle is the basis for medication administration. As you move through the rest of the lessons in this course, keep the medication cycle in mind and think about how the new information you are learning fits into the cycle.

Thank you

This concludes Lesson 2. You may now take the Lesson 2 quiz or return to the course page.