



香港護士管理局  
*NURSING COUNCIL  
OF HONG KONG*

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To: Distribution List

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Reminder on Professional Nursing Practice Administration of Medication**

I write to seek your assistance to remind the nurses in your organisation of the importance to exercise extra care in administration of medication and to draw your attention to a recommendation in administration of medication as detailed in the ensuing paragraphs.

The Nursing Council of Hong Kong (“the Council”) recently conducted a disciplinary inquiry hearing on a complaint case against a nurse’s malpractice in administration of medication. The nurse, after completing the checking procedure but before administering the medication to a patient, was distracted by other duties and did not proceed with the administration of medication. When she returned from the duties, she did not go through the required procedures afresh but proceeded with administration of medication, resulting in delivery of wrong medication to the patient concerned in the complaint. After the inquiry hearing, the Council was satisfied that the nurse had been guilty of unprofessional conduct.

In considering the complaint case, the Council noted that while the jury of the death inquest for the concerned case concluded unanimously that the patient concerned died of natural causes, the jury recommended that –

- (i) on top of the existing “Three Checks, Five Rights (三核五對)” procedures in administration of medication, an additional procedure “One Delivery (一派送)” be added, making the whole process consisting of “Three Checks, Five Rights, and One Delivery (三核五對一派送)”, during which staff administering medication should deliver the medication to the patient immediately after “Three Checks, Five Rights (三核五對)” and should not be disturbed/interfered in any case; if any of the procedures has been interfered, the staff administering medication should start the whole process afresh; and

- (ii) the Council should inform all medical units/institutions of the new requirement and instruct the medical units/institutions to not cause disturbance/interference to staff administering medication during any procedure of the whole process.

While the Council notes that medical units/institutions should have had established procedures for the administration of medication, the Council considers it necessary to remind all medical units/institutions of the importance to comply with the relevant requirements in administration of medication to ensure delivery of the right medication to the correct patient. In this connection, you are reminded to refer to the “Administration of Medication” section of the *Guide to Good Nursing Practice* (“the Guide”) as published by the Council which outlines the broad principles of good nursing practice in administration of medication. You may refer to the Guide and review the current procedures of your organisation if deemed necessary. The Guide can be downloaded from the Council’s website ([https://www.nchk.org.hk/en/code\\_of\\_conduct\\_and\\_practice/guides\\_to\\_good\\_nursing\\_practice/index.html](https://www.nchk.org.hk/en/code_of_conduct_and_practice/guides_to_good_nursing_practice/index.html)).

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank you for your concerted efforts in upholding patient safety standards. If you have any enquiries, please contact the Council Secretariat at 2527 8325.

Yours sincerely,



(Professor Agnes TIWARI)

Chairman, Nursing Council of Hong Kong

Distribution List (For circulation to all medical units/institutions as appropriate):

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