

Intravenous Infusions Ethical Issues

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Intravenous Infusions

- Is there any difference between oral and intramuscular administration of drugs and intravenous administration?
- Are there any ethical issues related to non intravenous administration of drugs?

Intravenous Infusions

- A study carried out by Taxis & Barber (2003) about the incidence & severity of intravenous drug errors identified the following errors:

Preparation Errors

- Preparation of wrong drug
- Preparation of an unauthorized drug

Preparation Errors

- Errors in solvent/diluent (use of wrong solvent / diluent or wrong volume)
- Preparation of wrong dose
- Omission of prescribed drug

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Administration Errors

- Administration to wrong patient
- Fast administration of bolus dose through a peripheral line

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- Incompatibility errors

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Medication Errors

- Most of these could happen with other modes of administration.
- It is therefore, essential that with all types of administration of drugs, every effort is made to reduce the possibility of medication errors

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Accountability can be defined as being *answerable* for how one has carried out his / her *responsibility*

Competence

- A person is competent when that person understands what s/he is about to undertake, and can anticipate any problems that may arise

Competence

- No amount of courses or certificates can guarantee that a person is competent.
- It is only when one is capable of identifying what one is capable of doing and what are the limitations to one's practice that a person is deemed to be competent.

Knowledge

- competent nurses are knowledgeable nurses – not only biomedical knowledge but a broader knowledge to enable effective decision making in partnership with patients.

Code Of Ethics

- Nurses are accountable to:

Maintain and improve their professional knowledge and competence

Acknowledge any limitations in their knowledge and competence and decline any duties or responsibilities unless able to perform them in a safe and skilled manner

UKCC – Scope of Professional Practice:

- “the nurse must ensure that any enlargement or adjustment of the scope of personal professional practice must be achieved without compromising or fragmenting existing aspects of professional practice and care and that the requirements of the Council’s Code of Professional Conduct are satisfied throughout the whole area of practice’ (UKCC 1992a, section 9.4)

Role Extension

Nurses must be certified to perform any activity that is not learned in pre-registration training.

Role expansion

- nurses undertake those activities that they are competent to perform.

The expanded role of the nurse entails the exercise of additional technical expertise.

Role Expansion

- Autonomy

Informed Consent

Accountability

- Authority

need for defined

parameters of authority

Thank you for your attention