



# 9 Administering Medicine

## Vocabulary

*To prepare yourself for the class, look in a dictionary for the words or phrases you do not already know.*

acetaminophen

atorvastatin

dosage

morphine

pharmacy

narcotic (also adj)

sedative (also adj)

(medicine) acts quickly

assess (pain)

assist in the preparation

enter on the chart

follow the procedure

tag along

consistent

(is given) as needed

according to

at the same time

a.c. = before meals (from Latin *ante cibum*)

b.i.d. = twice a day (from *bis in die*)

gtt. = drops (from *guttae*)

p.c. = after meals (from *post cibum*)

p.o. = by mouth, orally (from *per os*)

p.r.n. = as needed (from *pro re nata*)

q.d. = once a day (from *quaque die*)

q.i.d. = four times a day (from *quater in die*)

q.h. = every hour (q.2h. = every 2 hours, q.3h. = every 3 hours, etc.)

t.i.d. = three times a day (from *ter in die*)

ut dict. = as directed (from *ut dictum*)

### Find them!

Find and mark the vocabulary in the dialogue.

## Administering Medicine

### ▶ Track 09

*Paul, a student nurse, assists Harriet, a senior nurse, in the preparation and administration of medication for a patient.*

H → Harriet P → Paul

- H Hi Paul. Why don't you tell me what we need to do first?
- P First we have to review the patient's chart to see what medications the doctor ordered.
- H That's right. Did you find that information?
- P Yes. Right here. There's an order for atorvastatin, 20 mg q.d. Q.d. means once a day, right?
- H That's correct. According to the chart, your patient has been getting this medication every morning at 9 am, and it's important to be consistent by giving it at the same time every day. Now you need to check that the medication was prepared by the pharmacy correctly.
- P Okay. I'll check for the patient's name, the name of the medication, the dosage and the doctor's name. It all looks good.
- H So what's next?
- P Well, shouldn't we bring this to the patient now?
- H I think you missed something on the chart. There are actually two more medications, prescribed as p.r.n.
- P What does p.r.n. mean again?
- H That means that the medication is given as needed. In this case, the p.r.n. medications are morphine and acetaminophen. Both medications are given for pain and are commonly prescribed as p.r.n. Since your patient had surgery recently, he might need some pain medication.
- P Then should I prepare them both and bring them to the patient?
- H No. You should go to see the patient first and assess whether he is experiencing any pain, and if so, how much pain he is in. Morphine is more powerful and acts much more quickly than acetaminophen.
- P I know morphine is a narcotic, so I will have to follow the procedure for narcotic administration if he requires morphine.
- H Very good. I will help you assess his pain and decide which medication to administer. For now, I'm going to enter on the chart here that we are administering the atorvastatin, and we will both sign our names once the medication has been given to the patient.
- P I'm glad I have this chance to refresh my memory. I don't want to mess with anything narcotic or sedative. Would you mind if I tag along next time you administer the medication?
- H Not at all. Are we good to go now?

## Comprehension Practice



### True or False

*Answer the questions by writing True (T) or False (F).*

- 1 Q.d. means once per day. ....
- 2 The medication was prepared by the pharmacy. ....
- 3 Paul is supposed to give the patient morphine with the atorvastatin. ....
- 4 Morphine is a narcotic. ....
- 5 The dosage on the medication was wrong. ....
- 6 Only Harriet signed the chart. ....



### Multiple Choice

*Answer the questions by circling the correct choice.*

- 1 When does the patient get his medication?
  - a. 9 am.
  - b. 9 pm.
- 2 What does p.r.n. stand for?
  - a. Medicine given at night.
  - b. Medicine given as needed.
- 3 What did Paul miss on the chart?
  - a. There were two more medications.
  - b. The patient had surgery recently.
- 4 What works more quickly?
  - a. Acetaminophen.
  - b. Morphine.
- 5 What will Paul have to follow if he administers morphine?
  - a. The chart of prescribed medications.
  - b. The procedure for narcotic administration.
- 6 What is acetaminophen given for?
  - a. A sleeping aid.
  - b. Pain relief.



## Vocabulary Exercise

**A** – Fill in the blanks with the following words. Make necessary grammar changes as you see fit. Double check your answers with one classmate.

consistent pharmacy dosage prescribe morphine atorvastatin  
acetaminophen assess tag along narcotic sedative assist

- 1 Please call the ..... and ask if the medication is ready.
- 2 According to the ..... written on the bottle, she needs to take this two times per day.
- 3 Don't forget to be ..... about the time you give your patient this medication.
- 4 My patient is having a hard time sleeping. A ..... would be very helpful.
- 5 After the doctor ..... your patient, she'll decide if that's a good idea.
- 6 She gave the patient the ..... to help ease his pain.
- 7 He needs a stronger pain killer. I think that next time we should give the patient .....
- 8 The senior nurse will help the student with the administration of the .....
- 9 This is Carla. She will ..... you today to administer medication.
- 10 I really appreciate you letting me ..... to learn from you.
- 11 The doctor wrote down that we are to give 30 mg of ..... to this patient.
- 12 Did you ask the doctor what medication she ..... for the patient?

**B** – Based on the dialogue, choose the best replacement for the underlined words or phrases.

- |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 It's important to be <u>consistent</u> by giving it at the same time every morning.</p> <p>a. general<br/>b. regular<br/>c. intense</p> | <p>3 You should go and <u>assess</u> whether he is experiencing any pain.</p> <p>a. ask<br/>b. identify<br/>c. measure</p> |
| <p>2 Q.d. means <u>once a day</u>, right?</p> <p>a. everyday<br/>b. daily<br/>c. one day a time</p>                                          | <p>4 I know morphine is a <u>narcotic</u>.</p> <p>a. strong medicine<br/>b. illegal medicine<br/>c. sleeping medicine</p>  |

## Patterns and Drill

*Follow the same sentence pattern; make a new sentence with the words provided.*



- 1** According to the chart, your patient has been getting this medication every morning at 9 am. (report, Sarah, vomit)

→ .....

- 2** Why don't you tell me what we need to do first? (show, where, have to, go)

→ .....

- 3** Now you need to check that the medication was prepared by the pharmacy correctly. (assess, report, write, student nurse)

→ .....

- 4** Since your patient had surgery recently, he might need some pain medication. (the young woman, morning sickness, nausea medication)

→ .....

- 5** Morphine is more powerful and acts much more quickly than acetaminophen. (The tri-screen test, advance, give more information, a general genetic test)

→ .....

- 6** I will help you assess his pain and decide which medication to administer. (her, cope with, contractions, identify, procedure, follow)

→ .....



## Conversation Practice

*Fill the blanks with the appropriate phrases. Then practice these dialogues with a classmate until you are familiar with them.*

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(a) Could I at least have some acetaminophen?</p> <p>(b) According to the chart, this patient needs his medication twice a day.</p> <p>(c) I don't want to give him the wrong dose of a narcotic.</p> | <p>(d) Let me go and check to see what's holding them up.</p> <p>(e) Is he going to take acetaminophen once he starts feeling less pain?</p> <p>(f) It's important that you learn to prepare the medicine correctly.</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- 1 A ▷ Would you please assist me in the preparation of this medication?  
 B ▷ Sure. ....  
 A ▷ Twice a day? Are you sure?  
 B ▷ Yes, that's what b.i.d. means, right?
  
- 2 A ▷ Nurse! I need something for my pain, please.  
 B ▷ The doctor needs to assess your progress before we can do that.  
 A ▷ .....  
 B ▷ No, he may want to prescribe something different. It'll just be a short wait.
  
- 3 A ▷ Thank you for letting me tag along with you today.  
 B ▷ Of course. ....  
 A ▷ Here it says atorvastatin, 20 mg q.d. for our next patient. What does it mean?  
 B ▷ That means to give him 20 milligrams of atorvastatin once a day.
  
- 4 A ▷ Please enter on the chart that we are giving the patient morphine.  
 B ▷ His chart says p.r.n. That means given as needed, right?  
 A ▷ Yes. He's just had surgery. He is in a lot of pain right now.  
 B ▷ .....
  
- 5 A ▷ If you need to administer morphine, please follow the correct procedure.  
 B ▷ I will. ....  
 A ▷ Do you know what the required procedure for narcotics is?  
 B ▷ Yes. Go assess the patient's pain first before administering the morphine.
  
- 6 A ▷ According to the chart, the patient needs to take his medicine a.c.  
 B ▷ Has the pharmacy sent down the medication yet?  
 A ▷ No. But lunch will be here soon and the patient is hungry.  
 B ▷ .....



## Retell the story

*Often you need to describe a situation accurately. This exercise will help you give familiar with changing the tense when you report a situation.*

Today Student Nurse Paul ..... (come) to work in the Post Surgery Ward for the first time. He was curious about everything. The Senior Nurse, Harriet, ..... (be) the Charge Nurse for the day. Harriet was going to distribute medicine for the patients. Paul came along to assist Harriet so he could get familiar with the procedure.

In order to help ..... (refresh) Paul's memory, Harriet started the short on-the-job training by asking Paul questions about one of the patients they were administering atorvastatin to. Paul was correct in the dosage, but missed the two pain medicines: morphine and acetaminophen, that were prescribed as p.r.n., which ..... (stand) for "given as needed."

Morphine is a narcotic. It is much more powerful and ..... (work) faster than acetaminophen. Since the patient had had surgery recently, he probably would need one of the pain relievers. Paul ..... (offer) to take the narcotic medications to the patient, but Harriet reminded him that they needed to assess the amount of pain the patient was experiencing before offering p.r.n. medicines.

Harriet told Paul that she would help him assess the patient's pain. They ..... (enter) the atorvastatin on the chart, and sign their names after the medicine was given to the patient. Paul was glad that Harriet ..... (be) there to help him through his first day on the job!



## Listening and Speaking Practice

*Three students make a team. Divide the dialogue into three sections. For each section, two students role-play the dialogue while the third student practices taking dictation. Take turns so each student has a chance to do each role once. When finished, swap your notes for spelling check.*

Role-play by ..... (Senior Nurse) and ..... (Student Nurse):

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## Writing Exercise

*Based on the dialogue, summarize the steps for administering medicine.*

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