

Medication Management Implications of IHCNO Guidelines

#/Topic	Guideline	Medication Implications
1 Assessment	The home health nurse performs a comprehensive assessment of the patient, collecting data that affects the patient's health and well-being.	At transition to home healthcare, and intermittently as needed, perform a comprehensive medication assessment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication reconciliation and identifying duplicate therapy and polypharmacy that could be simplified • High risk drugs requiring extra teaching and monitoring • Ineffective drug therapy (meds not achieving their purpose) • Drug/food interactions • Ineffective plan for regular drug administration of right drug, right dose, right time, right method • Patient knowledge of side effects vs early signs of adverse effects • Patient cognitive, visual, and manual deficits affecting med adherence. • Factors that affect adherence, such as health literacy, cultural needs, side effects, cost, and renewal issues
2 Diagnosis	The home health nurse analyzes the assessment data to determine the patient's problems and needs.	Identify actual and potential medication problems, such as ineffective drug therapy, patient knowledge deficits, barriers to adherence, inappropriately complex medication regimes, etc.
3 Goal Identification	The home health nurse identifies desired care goals individualized to the patient.	Develop a goal for each type of medication problem to assure a safe, effective and acceptable medication plan for the patient.
4 Planning	The home health nurse develops a plan that prescribes strategies and interventions to attain the desired goals.	Brainstorm strategies with the patient that will close the gap between the patient's actual/potential problems and achieving medication goals.
5 Implementation	The home health nurse implements the individualized patient plan of care.	Administer meds using 5 rights. Make referrals to pharmacists, medication assistance programs, etc., as needed. Provide teaching and coaching to engage patient in safe medication practices. Communicate with provider about medication issues.

#/Topic	Guideline	Medication Implications
6 Evaluation	The home health nurse evaluates the patient's progress toward the desired goals.	Reassess using the same criteria and questions as at admission. Use teach-back and return demonstration strategies to measure patient's medication knowledge and skill.
7 Ethics	The home health nurse practices ethically.	Understand medication assessment and management as a crucial element within the nurse's ethical responsibilities as part of promoting patient health.
8 Education	The home health nurse seeks the knowledge and skills needed for providing excellent care to patients in their homes.	Recognize that nurses need ongoing learning to maintain the knowledge and skills needed to help patients use medications safely and effectively. Take responsibility for acquiring needed medication knowledge and assessment/management skills.
9 Evidence-Based Practice/Research	The home health nurse integrates evidence and research findings into practice.	When seeking to enhance medication management knowledge and skills, use research/evidenced based resources or guidelines based on scientific findings.
10 Quality of Practice	The home health nurse contributes to quality nursing practice.	Include improving nurses' medication management knowledge and skills in agency quality improvement programs.
11 Communication	The home health nurse communicates effectively.	Communicate effectively with patients, families, physicians/providers and the health care team about medication issues. Use communication strategies such as therapeutic communication, teaching-learning communication strategies, and SBAR communication.
12 Leadership	The home health nurse demonstrates leadership.	Lead by example: Be a role-model for conducting good medication assessments/reconciliations/management and choosing interventions that successfully help patients adhere to safe and effective medication regimes. Advocate for agency-wide medication management quality improvement programs.
13 Collaboration	The home health nurse collaborates with the patient's physician/healthcare provider, other healthcare team members and with the patient/family/caregivers.	Collaborate with the patient/caregivers, physician/care provider and pharmacist to assure the patient has a safe, effective medication regime that makes patient adherence easy.

#/Topic	Guideline	Medication Implications
14 Professional Practice Evaluation	The home health nurse evaluates one's own practice in relation to standards, guidelines, statutes and regulations.	Self-evaluate for medication practices that are congruent with evidence-based medication guidelines (Examples: IHI, 2011; WHO, 2011)
15 Resource Utilization	The home health nurse uses resources to plan and provide safe, effective and financially responsible nursing services.	Promote safe and effective medications and medication practices at the least cost.
16 Environmental Health	The home health nurse practices in an environmentally safe and healthy manner.	Stay up-to-date about best practices for disposing of medications and medication devices in nurse's geographic area.
17 Cultural Competence	The home health nurse practices in a manner that is congruent with cultural and inclusion principles.	Investigate the patient's cultural needs and preferences and how they might affect the medication plan.

Developed by Mary Curry Narayan (2018) for the International Home Care Nurses Organization. www.ihcno.org. May be distributed to promote enhanced patient care.