



Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Administration of Medicines to Neonates For Student Midwives (2nd and 3rd Year only)

N.B. Staff should be discouraged from printing this document. This is to avoid the risk of out-of-date printed versions of the document. The Intranet should be referred to for the current version of the document.

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Introduction

The administration of medicines is an important aspect of professional practice requiring thought and professional judgement. At the point of entry onto the register all midwives will have been deemed competent by an Approved Education Institute (AEI) to select, acquire and administer safely a range of permitted drugs consistent with the Human Medicines Regulations 2012, amended in 2016, applying knowledge and skills to each situation.

In order for a student midwife to become proficient in medicines management, they must be given opportunities to observe, understand and participate in the administration of a variety of medicines.

The purpose of this guideline is to ensure the safe and effective administration of medicines to a neonate by a 2nd or 3rd year student midwife under direct supervision of two registered midwives. In the case of 'Midwifery Exemptions' i.e Phytomenadione, one midwife is required to be a Practice Assessor (MHRA 2012, amended 2016).

First year student midwives are not permitted to administer any medications to a neonate.

"Direct supervision" means in direct visual contact to safely monitor their activities. Direct supervision allows the 2 midwives to observe the act of administration of medicines by the student midwife, allowing the student the opportunity to administer oral or IM medication prescribed by a Neonatal Doctor or covered by NMC Midwifery Exemptions and agreed by ABUHB.

This guidance is in accordance with the ABUHB Medicines Management Policy (2020), NMC Standards for Pre-Registration Midwifery Education (2009), Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education (2018) and in addition, to reflect current practice in the ABUHB where medicines administration to children is always a two-registrant process, two qualified midwives **must** be present throughout this procedure, with the student midwife being the third practitioner.

No controlled drugs can be given under the midwifery exemption

Policy Statement

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board strive to ensure that all staff comply with this Policy. Registrants, within their scope of practice are responsible for appropriately training student midwives in the administration of oral, topical and intramuscular medication to a neonate which has been prescribed by a Neonatologist or is covered by Midwives Exemptions as set out by the NMC.

Aims and Objectives

To guide Midwives in supporting the Student Midwife (2nd and 3rd year) in the Safe administration of neonatal medicines.

To enable student midwives to become proficient in administering medicines to the neonate.

Scope

This Policy is applicable to all Midwives who are employed by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and to 2nd and 3rd year Student Midwives undergoing educational training within Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Roles and Responsibilities

Remember:

In order to administer neonatal medicines safely, the 2 midwives and the student midwife administering must:

- Establish the identity of the neonate in accordance with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Patient Identification policy.
- Check that the student midwife is in their 2nd or 3rd Year of training.

- Check the prescription is clearly written, unambiguous and appropriate for the condition being treated.
- The weight of the neonate must be considered when calculating doses of medications and any calculation must be carried out independently and checked prior to administration.
- Ensure that 2 registered midwives and the student midwife check the medicine against the prescription to ensure correct dosage, route and timing of the administration.
- Check the expiry date of the medicine to be administered.
- Ensure that the 2 midwives and the student midwife make clear and accurate recording of their initials on all medicines administered or appropriately code any intentionally withheld medicines on the medication chart. Clear documentation in the neonatal notes, including the names and doses of medicines and the name and role of the midwife is essential.
- Ensure that one of the 2 midwives is a Practice Assessor if the student midwife is giving a neonatal drug from the list of Midwives Exemptions. All three sign the medication chart and document in the neonatal notes.

Training

1. REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE FOR SAFE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES TO A NEONATE BY A 2nd or 3rd YEAR STUDENT MIDWIFE

To ensure medicines are safely administered the **student midwife** must:

1.1 Know the therapeutic use of the medicines to be administered, its normal dose, side effects, precautions, contra-indications and monitoring requirements. In the event that the student midwife is not aware of this information, they must be able to locate the information before administration. Where it is considered the student is not yet

ready to undertake administration in whatever form this should be delayed until such time that the student is ready.

1.2 Be aware of any additional guidance that support medicines administration and student supervision e.g. ABUHB Medicines Management Policy, NMC The Code, NMC Realising Professionalism: Standards for Education and Training, Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment and NMC list of Midwives Exemptions.

1.3 The student is compliant with taught sessions from the AEI and medicines management assessments appropriate for their stage of the programme.

2. THE PROCESS OF SAFE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES PRESCRIBED BY A NEONATAL DOCTOR

2.1 The process should be performed with two Registered Midwives and only with a 2nd or 3rd year student midwife. The student must be directly supervised at all times within the medicine administration process.

2.2 Establish the identity of the neonate in accordance with ABUHB patient identification Policy.

2.3 Gain informed parental consent by ensuring the parents understand the reason for the medication.

2.4 Check the medication chart and the prescribed drug is clearly written, unambiguous and appropriate for the condition treated. If the prescription is not appropriate or clear contact the prescriber/pharmacy for advice.

2.5 Check the medicine against the prescription to ensure correct dosage (related to the neonates weight) route and timing of the administration.

2.6 Check the expiry date of the medicine to be administered.

2.7 Measure the medication accurately using appropriate ANTT.

3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF ORAL MEDICINES PRESCRIBED BY A NEONATAL DOCTOR

3.1 Place the syringe into the baby's mouth towards the cheek and squeeze a small amount (0.5ml- 1ml max) into the mouth and observe the baby swallowing. Continue this way until the drug is fully administered

3.2 Make a clear and accurate recording of the three signatures on the medicine administration chart. This should also be documented in the neonate's notes.

4. INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION

4.1 Draw up the required amount of medication accurately in a sterile syringe. Remove any air bubble by tapping the syringe and change the needle. The site used for intramuscular injection would be the quadriceps muscle (vastus lateralis), lateral mid-third of the thigh. Maximum dose 1ml and a 25g needle (orange) inserted at a 90° angle.

4.2 Make a clear and accurate recording of the three signatures on the medicine administration chart. This should also be documented in the neonate's notes.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES TO NEONATES ON A MIDWIFERY EXEMPTION

5.1 Registered midwives employed by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board may administer on their own initiative any of the medicines listed, providing it is in the course of their professional midwifery practice. Student midwives may administer neonatal medicines under the midwifery exemptions – **except controlled drugs** (NMC 2011 circular) under the direct supervision of two registered midwives one of them being a Practice Assessor (MHRA, 2012).

5.2 A 2nd or 3rd year student must only administer those medicines in which they have received the appropriate training in therapeutic use

dosage, side-effects, precautions, contra- indications and method of administration.

5.3 The registered midwife who has directly supervised the student must document the medicine as a midwifery exemption on the once only side of the medication chart or the agreed form. This would include the medicine, dose, route, time and date of administration. 'As per midwifery exemption' can be written in the prescribers' box. The second midwife and the student will also sign the appropriate chart.

5.4 As with all medicines administration, procedure from 2.2 onwards should be adhered to.

Implementation

Training in Neonates Medicines Administration will take place in the 2nd and 3rd year of the student midwives programme.

Further Information Clinical Documents

See all references and resources below.

Equality

At all times ABUHB will recognise the diversity of its workforce and our aim therefore is to provide a safe environment where all employees are treated fairly and equally and with dignity and respect.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

References and Resources

ABUHB Policies and Procedures. Available on ABUHB Intranet.

British National Formulary for children (BNFC) current guidance.

Guidance issued by the General Medical Council (GMC).

Human Medicines Regulation (2012) www.legislation.gov.uk

NMC (2009) *Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Education*. London. NMC.

NMC (2018) *The Code*. London. NMC.

NMC (2018) *Realising Professionalism: Standards for Education and Training. Part 1 Standards Framework for Nursing and Midwifery Education*. London. NMC

NMC (2018) *Realising Professionalism: Standards for Education and Training. Part 2: Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment*. London. NMC.

NMC Practicing as a Midwife in the UK. An Overview of Midwifery Regulation (2021) Midwives Exemptions in Annex A.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) Midwives: Exemptions 2012 (Amended 2016). www.gov.uk