

**Berkshire Community College**  
**Nursing Division**  
**Medication Administration Policy**

Students will be provided with both theory and clinical learning experiences related to safe medication administration appropriate to their level of education. Simulated experiences with medication administration skills will be satisfactorily completed in the Skills Practice Lab before a student is allowed to administer medications in the clinical environment with supervision of the clinical instructor.

Students will not administer medications until they have received required education regarding the route of administration in the lab. Medications will **always** be administered under the direct supervision of BCC clinical faculty.

**Prior to check by the clinical faculty the student will be knowledgeable about:**

- Allergies
- Drug action/type (i.e., antihypertensive-type ace inhibitor)
- Major side effects and incompatibilities
- Correct IV drip rate (ml/hr.) or IV pump rate for IV meds
- Adequate IV supplies including dated tubing and secondary sets
- The correct medication dosage: i.e., a tablet must be halved, a fraction of the medication is to be used, and/or if more than one tablet, vial etc. needs to be used
- If medications can be cut or crushed
- Proper needle/syringe size, appropriate site selection, and appropriate amount of medication to be injected at each site
- All proper abbreviations related to medication administration
- Saline flush procedures (peripheral sites)
- Safe dose ranges
- Expiration dates
- Documentation of medication administration, non-administration or refusal

**Prior to check by the clinical faculty the student will have the following drug information documented:**

- BP and apical pulse taken by the student within one hour of medication administration of vasoactive drugs and/or drugs that will affect heart rate or rhythm
- Appropriate laboratory values needed for specific medications. For example:
  - PT, PTT levels, and INR levels
  - Potassium and sodium levels
  - Dilantin, phenobarbital, digoxin
  - Aminophylline and theophylline levels

- Blood glucose levels, whether laboratory results or point of care equipment for glucose monitoring

The student must be deemed competent by clinical faculty in clinical calculations prior to medication administration. Math calculation questions are incorporated throughout all the exams in LPN142/152 and NUR 102/201/202.

- In LPN142 this will be done in lab.
- In NUR 101/102/106 this will be done with a math exam which will count towards the student's final course grade.
  - A student must achieve a score of 90% to be deemed competent to administer medications. If the student does not score a 90%, then a remediation plan will be established and students will be referred to Math tutoring.

### **Intravenous Medications**

The student is directly supervised in all aspects of the administration of IV medications, including tubing and IV dressing changes by the clinical faculty as per the facility policy.

### **IV Push Medications – Acute Care**

The Practical Nurse student may not administer any medication IV push as per BHS' policy. The ADN student may administer IV push medications based on the facility's policy upon successful completion of the formalized psychomotor administration skill in NUR106 or NUR 201. Administration of IV push medications must be directly supervised by the faculty and in adherence to agency policy.

**Violation of this policy will result in documentation of professional misconduct and/or clinical safety and will result in a disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the nursing program as per the Dismissal Policy.**

