



Advanced Online Competency Assessment Support Document 1

Comparing labels and MAR sheets

A number of care staff fail to spot the differences between the label and the MAR sheet on the online competency assessment. Here are some points to consider.....



Why is it so important to be able to spot the difference between the instructions on the label and the MAR sheet?



Because if you cannot spot the differences, you will make a medication error.

Consider...?

- a** If you didn't notice that the strength of a warfarin tablet on the MAR sheet was 0.5mg and the medicine label on the container you had selected said 5mg-you would have **given 10 x the dose** to a person.
- b** If you didn't notice that the name of the medicine on the MAR sheet said lorazepam and the name on the medicine label said loprazolam-you would have **given the wrong medicine to the person**.
- c** If you didn't notice the medicine had passed its expiry date, you would have **given an out of date medicine to a person**.

Now let's look at some top tips to make sure you can spot any differences between labels and MAR sheets, both when you are doing the online competency assessment AND when you are administering medicines to people during the course of your work.

5 Top Tips to check the label and MAR sheet

-  Check the name of each medicine letter by letter ensuring the letters appear in the same order
-  Check the strength is the same-both the number (e.g. 5) and the units (e.g. mg) =5mg
-  Check the number of tablets to give is the same
-  Check the number of times a day the medicine is to be given is the same
-  Check the person's full name is the same-check letter-by letter-first name, (any middle names) and last name



Don't forget! There are other details to check also! Get into a good routine for checking

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