



Medication Administration Under Pressure:

A NURSING CHALLENGE SIMULATION

sim2grow
SIMULATION SOLUTIONS

LEARNERS: Nursing students, any level

GROUP SIZE: 4 learners

REQUIRED SKILLS: Must have learned steps of safe med admin

Overview

In this simulation, four nursing students will participate in a scenario that tests their ability to manage common disruptions during medication administration, including a new disruption that occurs at the medication dispensing cart in the medication room.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this simulation, your students will be able to:

- Identify common sources of disruption.
- Understand why disruptions are becoming more common in the healthcare environment.
- Apply effective strategies to minimize and manage disruptions.
- Analyze the impact of these disruptions on patient safety and medication errors.

Role Descriptions (For Facilitator knowledge only)

1. Medication Nurse: responsible for preparing and administering medications to the patient.
2. Assistant Nurse: responsible for assisting the Medication Nurse and observing the process.
3. Fellow Staff Member: acts as a fellow staff member who interrupts at the medication dispensing cart.
4. Family Member: acts as a family member who interrupts during bedside medication administration.

Prebrief

Brief Students:

- Read Patient report below.
- Explain there will be 4 roles without revealing specific disruptions planned. Pass around Role Cards and have students read their roles to themselves.
- Emphasize the importance of patient safety and strict adherence to medication administration protocols.

Set Expectations:

- Encourage students to think critically and communicate effectively.

Patient Report

THIS IS TO BE READ TO THE STUDENTS DURING PREBRIEF

Patient Report (current time 0740):

Mr. Anderson James is a 68-year-old male with a history of type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension.

He was admitted to the hospital three days ago due to a non-healing diabetic ulcer on his left foot. Mr. James completed a 3-day course of intravenous antibiotics last evening and is set for discharge home today on oral antibiotics.

Debridement to remove necrotic tissue was done on the day of admission and his blood glucose levels have been monitored and managed with adjustments to his oral medication regimen, which now includes metformin 1000 mg twice daily. His hypertension was also closely monitored, and his lisinopril dose was increased from 10 mg once a day to 20 mg once a day.

Home care services have been set up for wound care management. A home health nurse will visit daily for five days to do a dressing change, monitor the healing process, and check for infection. Family will be taught to take over the dressing change beginning on Day 6.

Mr. James's son/daughter is already here in his room and is anxious to get his/her father home because he has to be at work by 11 am. He/She has several questions about the change in medication doses and the home health nurse visits.

Role Cards: (Print and Laminate)

Primary Nurse

You are responsible for administering medication to Mr. James today. You will be helped by your Assistant Nurse who will double check your dosage calculations or aid you in retrieving any supplies, information, or anything else you need.

You each have a role. Please do not share the details on your role card with the other participants.

Assistant Nurse

You are responsible for assisting Mr. James's Primary Nurse today. You will do things such as double check dosage calculations or retrieving any supplies, information, or anything else the Primary Nurse may need.

You each have a role. Please do not share the details on your role card with the other participants.

Floor Nurse

You are responsible for 6 patients today and you are VERY busy. Unfortunately, you do not have any assistance with your work load because there were call ins this morning. When you see your colleagues at the medication cart, please request assistance with putting your patient who is on bedrest onto a bedpan. There isn't anyone else you can ask. Be polite but be persistent and stress the urgency of the situation- your patient REALLY needs that bedpan!

You each have a role. Please do not share the details on your role card with the other participants.

Family Member

Your dad is Mr. James. Your mom passed away a few months ago and you are responsible for caring for your dad. You don't have any other family members. You are a busy computer engineer and travel a lot for work. You don't have any healthcare background and are really anxious about your father's discharge plans. It is really important get a better picture of what is going on with your dad. You need to make arrangements to get your dad home and make sure he has enough meds. You have no idea how much of his diabetes and HTN meds he has at home but you heard from the nurse yesterday that the doses were adjusted. You are also worried about the home health nurse's schedule. You have a work trip next week so your dad will be home on his own. When the nurses caring for your dad arrive in the room, it is time to get some answers...now! Ask about his diagnosis, when will he be discharged, what are you going to do about your work trip next week?

You each have a role. Please do not share the details on your role card with the other participants.

Simulation Equipment and Supplies

Equipment:

- Med Cart/area to prepare medications
- Manikin (any fidelity will do, no programming necessary) dressed in patient gown, laying in hospital bed with left foot wrapped in a dressing.


Supplies:

- Simulated meds (Lisinopril 10mg tablet, Metformin 500mg tablet), med supplies (dosage calculation equipment, med cup, med reference book/app, etc.)
- Water pitcher and cup at bedside

eMAR and Wristband: (Print and Laminate)

James, Anderson (M)		DOB: October 7, XX (68 yo)	MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION RECORD	
MR #: 5642-09923		Provider: R Holthaus, FNP	Refresh New Orders	
Room: 202 Bed B		Allergy: Penicillin		
Weight: 205 lbs	Height: 5'11"			

ALL	ROUTINE	STAT	PRN	SINGLE DOSE	IV	AT BEDSIDE		Patient List																							
SELECT MED:						00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
LISINAPRIL															X																
20 mg	PO	Once Daily	Routine																												
METFORMIN														X															X		
1000 mg	PO	Twice Daily	Routine																												

	Name: James, Anderson (M)	DOB: October 7, XX (68 yo)
	Room: 202 Bed: B	MR#: 5642-09923
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Simulation Flow

Phase 1: Med Dispensing and Preparation

Med cart dispensing of medications by primary and assistant nurses. (If needed, prompt floor nurse to interrupt while meds are being prepared)

Allow primary and assistant nurses time to finish preparing med after the floor nurse makes request.

Phase 2: Bedside Medication Administration

Nurses enter room with medication (if needed, prompt Family member to interrupt while steps of med admin are being started),

Allow primary and assistant nurses time to finish administering meds and document.

Phase 3: Debrief

Group Discussion:

- Facilitate an open and honest discussion.

Encourage self-reflection and peer feedback.

Connect to Learning Objectives:

- Relate students' experiences back to the objectives to reinforce learning.
- Types of disruptions encountered.
- Effectiveness of handling each disruption.
- Any errors that occurred or were narrowly avoided.
- Strategies to prevent and manage similar disruptions in the future.

Learning Objectives Alignment

1. Identify Common Disruptions

- Experience Interruptions:
 - From a colleague at the medication dispensing cart.
 - From a family member during medication administration.
- Recognition:
 - Understand how these disruptions can occur in real clinical settings.

2. Understand Increasing Disruptions in Healthcare

- Discussion:
 - Explore reasons why healthcare environments are prone to frequent interruptions.
 - Analyze how workload, staffing shortages, and multitasking contribute.

3. Apply Strategies to Manage Disruptions

- Communication Skills:
 - Practice assertive communication to manage interruptions.
 - Use strategies like asking the colleague to wait or delegating tasks appropriately.
 - Focus Maintenance:
 - Prioritize tasks and maintain focus despite distractions.

4. Analyze Impact on Patient Safety and Medication Errors

- Reflection:
 - Assess how disruptions affected performance.
 - Identify any errors or near-misses.
 - Risk Mitigation:
 - Develop plans to prevent similar errors in future practice.

Key Points for Students to Consider

- Prioritization
- Task Focus:
 - Recognize the critical importance of uninterrupted medication preparation and administration.
- Decision-Making:
 - Evaluate which interruptions require immediate attention and which can be addressed later.
- Communication Skills
 - Assertiveness:
 - Politely but firmly communicate the need to focus on the current task.
 - Clarity:
 - Provide clear instructions or information to the disruptor to manage the situation effectively.
- Teamwork
- Collaboration:
 - Utilize the Assistant Nurse to help manage tasks and disruptions.
- Support:
 - Assist each other in maintaining adherence to safety protocols.
- Safety Protocols
 - Rights of Medication Administration:
 - Right patient, right medication, right dose, right time, right route, right documentation.
 - Verification:
 - Double-check all medications, allergies, and patient identifiers.