



THE Lamp LIGHTER

Methodist Hospitals Nurse Newsletter • Oct. 2025

PROVISION OF CARE SPOTLIGHT: Medication Administration

As Methodist Hospitals anticipates the upcoming Joint Commission survey, we are publishing a Lamplighter series focusing on various aspects of the provision of care. In this issue, we're spotlighting Medication Administration.

Medication Administration is among the most critical aspects of patient care, requiring vigilance, consistency, and adherence to established standards. At



Methodist Hospitals, our priority is to ensure that every dose is delivered safely and accurately, upholding our commitment to patient safety and clinical excellence.

The 8 Rights of Medication Administration

To minimize errors and safeguard patient health, all staff must strictly follow the **8 Rights of Medication Administration**:

- Right Patient
- Right Drug
- Right Dose
- Right Route
- Right Time
- Right Documentation
- Right Reason
- Right Response

Each step is essential. For example, scanning the patient's armband in the patient's room ensures correct identification and reduces the risk of medication errors.

Roles and Responsibilities

Medication orders are initiated by physicians and advanced practice nurses, while registered nurses are

responsible for administering approved medications. Before administering any medications, nurses must contact the prescriber if there are any questions or clarifications required.

This collaborative process emphasizes accuracy at every stage, from prescribing to administration. Proper documentation in the Medication Administration Record (MAR) is required to track compliance and maintain accountability.

First-Dose Medication Compliance

Special attention is given to first-dose medications, which require both administration accuracy and patient education. Compliance can be demonstrated in two ways: through the MAR (with an "open book" notation on the specific medication) or by completing the First Dose Education checklist. This documentation includes details on the learner, their readiness, the education method, and the patient's response. Recording this information not only meets regulatory standards but also ensures that patients are fully informed about their treatment.

Education and Engagement

Patient education remains central to effective medication administration. Methodist nurses play a vital role in explaining the purpose, dosage, and potential effects of medications. They're encouraged to employ teach back to ensure patient understanding of their medications. Education is not just about compliance; it empowers patients to participate actively in their care.

A Culture of Safety

As we approach the Joint Commission survey, strict adherence to these medication administration standards is vital. By consistently applying the Eight Rights, documenting accurately, and prioritizing patient education, Methodist Hospitals reinforces its culture of safety and excellence in the provision of care.

CNO MESSAGE:

3 Important Reminders for Methodist Nurses

As we move into the fall season, I would like to take a moment to remind everyone of three important priorities that impact both our patients and our teams.

First, if you have not yet received your flu shot, please do so as soon as possible. The flu vaccine is an important safeguard that helps to protect you, your families, and the patients we serve. Together, we can reduce the risk of flu-related complications and help ensure a healthier environment across our health system.

Second, beginning with the October 19, schedule, all units will transition fully to UKG for scheduling. This change demonstrates our commitment to simplifying scheduling, creating a single reliable source of truth, reducing redundancy, and improving our ability to track changes. Please note that printed schedules will no longer be posted; schedules can be viewed online through UKG.

I would also like to clarify an important point about UKG self-scheduling. Think of self-scheduling as a “wish list.” These are the shifts and days you would prefer to work. While managers make every effort to honor these preferences, they must also ensure unit needs are met. For example, if everyone selects the same day, some adjustments may be required before the schedule is finalized to guarantee appropriate coverage. Thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility as we continue refining this system.

Finally, if you have not yet renewed your Indiana nursing license, please do so before the October 31, deadline. Processing often slows as the deadline approaches, so don't wait until the last minute.



Marla Hoyer-Lareau, RN, BSN, MHA, Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing and Operations Officer

Renewing Your Indiana Nursing License in 5 EASY STEPS

All Indiana nursing licenses expire on October 31. Follow these five simple steps to renew your license on time.



1. Go to **<https://mylicense.in.gov/eGov/ML1PLA.html>**.
2. Log in with the email and password from previous renewals. (Reset your password if needed.)
3. Look up your license. (Having your license number ready will help.)
4. Under **Actions**, click the three dots.
5. Complete the renewal survey and submit payment.

Applying your renewal online typically takes less than 10 minutes. However, state verification may take a few days to process. So, try not to wait until the last minute.

2025 Clinical Ladder Portfolios Due Soon

Heads up, nurses! 2025 Clinical Ladder portfolios must be submitted to Mary Jo Valentine by the week of October 20, 2025. It's not too late to pull your materials together—update your achievements, validations, and supporting documents, and get them in on time.

Questions? Contact Mary Jo:
Northlake: 219-886-6955
Southlake: 219-757-7223

Thank you for your commitment to professional growth and excellence!



IT UPDATE:

Epic Upgrade Coming October 13

Big changes are on the way! On October 13, Epic will be upgraded to the February 25 version, bringing enhancements designed to improve efficiency, streamline workflows, and support regulatory compliance. Methodist Hospitals nurses can look forward to several key updates:

- **Rover Enhancements** – From your mobile device, you'll be able to adjust text size, update patients' social histories, document blood transfusions from start to finish, and switch between jobs with just a tap.
- **Brain View** – See and adjust task details in a new, customizable format that makes it easier to stay organized.
- **Wound Avatar Clean-Up** – Wounds without assessment data for 90 days will automatically disappear from the avatar, keeping things clear and up to date.
- **Faster Care Plans & Education** – Add care plans and patient education materials more quickly and efficiently.



- **Macros** – Share helpful macros with your department so everyone can benefit.
- **OPA (Our Practice Advisories)** – Only active OPAs will appear, keeping your workspace free of unnecessary clutter.

These updates are meant to make documentation simpler, faster, and cleaner—so you can spend more time where it matters most: with your patients.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Maddie Paczkowski, RN, CCRN, on achieving certification as a Certified Acute/Critical Care Registered Nurse by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

Maddie, who cares for patients in the Northlake Campus ICU, exemplifies excellence in nursing practice and dedication to her profession.



Get The Lamplighter via text or to your personal email address!

Just scan this QR Code to fill out our simple sign-up form online.



Your privacy and security are our top priorities, and your information will only be used for official departmental communications and will not be shared with anyone.



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