



Royal College
of Nursing

2020 | International Year
of the Nurse and
Midwife

Medicines Management

An overview for nursing

CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE



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Effective medicines management places the patient

“The clinical, cost effective and safe use of medicines to ensure patients get the maximum benefit from the medicines they need, while at the same time minimising potential harm.”

“The goal of safe and effective medicines management is to optimise the benefits that treatment offers and attain the best outcome for each patient.”

health.ni.gov.uk/articles/medicines-management

[nice.org.uk/
Guidance/Service-delivery--organisation-
and-staffing/Medicines-management/
Medicines-management--general-and-other](http://nice.org.uk/Guidance/Service-delivery--organisation-and-staffing/Medicines-management/Medicines-management--general-and-other)

Medicines management process	Definition
Manufacturing and marketing	Ensuring that medicines are available in the appropriate form, strength and packaging. AB
Procurement	Ensuring that medicines are available in the appropriate form, strength and packaging.
Selection	Ensuring that medicines are available in the appropriate form, strength and packaging.
Prescribing	Ensuring that medicines are available in the appropriate form, strength and packaging.
Dispensing	

B



C



D

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assessment. Such policies are clear about who

medic

rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/



Management Standards there are numerous

[rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/medicines-management](https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/medicines-management)

C *Professional Guidance on the Administration of Medicines in Healthcare Settings* (2019) covers the administration of medicines,

has been co-produced by the RPS and RCN

[rpharms.com](https://www.rpharms.com)



Safe and Secure Handling of Medicines (SSHM) (December 2018) details the four

Principle 1: Establish assurance

Principle 2: Ensure capacity and capability

Principle 3: Seek assurance – do what we

Principle 4:

[rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines](https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines)

Getting our Medicines Right

[rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/polypharmacy-getting-our-medicines-right](https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/polypharmacy-getting-our-medicines-right)



(2018). This guide provides information on

[rcn.org.uk/get-help/rcn-advice/non-medical-prescribers](https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-help/rcn-advice/non-medical-prescribers)

[rcn.org.uk/library/subject-guides/medicines-management](https://www.rcn.org.uk/library/subject-guides/medicines-management)

[rcn.org.uk/library/subject-guides/children-and-young-people-medicines-management](https://www.rcn.org.uk/library/subject-guides/children-and-young-people-medicines-management)

[rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/public-health/immunisation](https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/public-health/immunisation)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society guidance

(2018). This guidance has been endorsed by

Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials.

Prescribing Specials Guidance for the prescribers of Specials.

RPS guidance is available at: [rpharms.com](https://www.rpharms.com)

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