

Be Careful to Develop Good Medication Administration Practice Habits!

- Always read the medication labels and compare the label to the medication administration record (MAR).
- Perform the **SIX Rights** each and every time you give medications for each medication, for each resident. Sometimes it is tempting to think the **SIX Rights** are so basic and simple that you do not need to follow them anymore. Do **NOT** skip these important checks; they help you to avoid medication errors.
- Be sure to question unusual orders, for example, if more than 3 tablets or capsules are needed for one dose of a medication, there is a good chance that you are preparing to give too much medication.
- A “red flag” should be raised in your mind if the resident says they do not normally take this medication, such as a “blue tablet” Don’t give the medication until you have re-checked to be sure you have the:

Right RESIDENT

Right MEDICATION

Right DOSE

Right ROUTE and the

Right TIME!

It is possible you have the correct medication and the pharmacy supplier has changed. However it is more likely that there is a medication error getting ready to happen. So you need to carefully recheck the MAR prior to giving the medications. If you continue to have doubts, contact your supervisor for clarification prior to giving the medication.

Remember if in DOUBT – DON’T!