

## Doing a Medication Check

**Natasha and Anna have gone to the Treatment Room to get some medication for Mr. Song. Read the conversation and answer the following questions.**

**Natasha:** Here's the Medication Chart. It's for Mr. Song in bed 16. There we are: Laurence Song, and he's ordered pethidine 100mg IM four hourly.

**Anna:** Right, yeah, I can see that. Laurence Song, pethidine 100mg IM four hourly. When did he have his last injection?

**Natasha:** He had it at eleven fifteen this morning and it's three thirty now, so that's at least four hours in between doses.

**Anna:** Okay.

**Natasha:** I've written up the drug book so it's ready for us to sign. Do you mind getting the pethidine from the cupboard? You've got the keys, haven't you?

**Anna:** Yeah, that's Ok. I've got the drug keys on me. Ok, pethidine 100mg amps. Here they are. I'll just count them. That's five, ten, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen. I'll take one out for Mr. Song and that means there are sixteen left.

**Natasha:** Sixteen. That's right. I'll sign for it in the book. Can you witness it for me, please?

**Anna:** Sure, okay there's my signature.

**Natasha:** Great. Here's the amp-pethidine 100mg. I'll just show you the expiry date... expires four two thousand and ten. So it's still Ok. Can you see that expiry date?

**Anna:** I'll have a look. Pethidine 100 mg, Ok. Expires, oh four two thousand and ten. Looks good.

**Natasha:** Right, now where's the syringe? Here we are. I'll just draw up the amp so you can see it. There it is: two mills. Can you check that for me, please?

**Anna:** Yes, that looks like two mills.

**Natasha:** Good, that's done. Thanks, Anna. Can you come with me now and watch me give the injection to Mr. Song? I know he's been waiting for it.

- Which drug has the doctor described for Mr. Song?
- Why does Natasha ask Anna to get the drug from the drug cupboard?
- What do they have to do when they take the ampoules from the cupboard?
- What do they have to do in the drug book?
- What information does Natasha show Anna on the ampoule?

**Put the following steps in the correct order.**

- Check the number of ampoules left in the cupboard.
- Draw up the correct amount of the drug in the syringe.
- Check the expiry date of the drug in the ampule.
- Check the time the last injection was given to the patient.
- Check the drug order in the Medication Chart.
- Sign and witness the drug book.
- Check the amount of drug drawn up in the syringe.
- Get an ampule from the locked cupboard.

## Doing a Medication Check

Match the strategies for correct administration of a medication (1-6) to the rationales (a-f).

- 1.) Anna checks that the drug count is correct before checking out an ampule of pethidine for Mr. Song.
  - 2.) Natasha checks the prescription in the Prescription Chart with Anna.
  - 3.) Natasha and Anna check the ampule together.
  - 4.) Natasha and Anna check the expiry date on the ampule.
  - 5.) Natasha draws up the correct amount of the drug in the syringe and shows Anna.
  - 6.) Anna watches Natasha give Mr. Song the injection written of pethidine.
- a.) out-of-date drugs may not be effective.
  - b.) this ensures that none of the ampules have been taken and misused.
  - c.) this is to prove that the syringe contains the controlled drug, not another colorless liquid.
  - d.) this ensures that the correct drug and dose is checked out.
  - e.)this proves that the patient has received the controlled drug.
  - f.) controlled drugs may only be given with a dose.