

## Administering Medications

The use of controlled drugs is regulated by legislation. The legislation sets out rules for the safekeeping of controlled drugs, the records which must be kept, and the manner of administering controlled drugs.

Discuss the following questions.

- What is your experience of administering controlled drugs?
- What is your experience of drug prescriptions?
- What rules relating to the administration of controlled drugs are there in your country?
- Why are controlled drugs regulated so strictly?

Natasha, a Ward Nurse, needs to give her patient, Mr. Song, an injection, and she is looking for a nurse to help her. Read the conversations and answer the following questions.

**Natasha:** Trish, have you got a minute? I just need a drug check. I've got to give Mr. Song some Morphine.

**Trish:** Oh sorry, Natasha, I can't at the moment. I'm just in the middle of something and I can leave it.

**Natasha:** No problem. I'll see Marek's available. Do you know where he is?

**Trish:** I think I saw him in the first bay a while ago.

**Natasha:** Ok, thanks. I'll see if he's available. Excuse me, Marek.

**Marek:** Yes?

**Natasha:** Are you busy at the moment or can you do a drug check with me?

**Marek:** Sorry, Natasha. I'm tied up at the moment. They've just rung from Theatres. They want Mr. Hubble prepped straight away. Can anyone else do it? I've got to do this pre-op check right now.

**Natasha:** That's Ok. I'll have to ask Anna. She should be free. Hi, Anna. Are you free at the moment?

**Anna:** I will be in a minute. I've just finished this dressing. Just let me just clear the dressing trolley first.

**Natasha:** Great. Would you mind checking this morphine with me, please?

**Anna:** Yes, sure. Let me just wash my hands and I'll be with you. Who's it for?

- Why does Natasha need assistance?
- What medication is Natasha going to give Mr. Song?
- Why can't Marek help her?
- Is Anna able to help?

Natasha asks for the assistance of other nurses. Match the beginnings (1-4) to the endings (a-d). Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

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| 1.) Have you       | a.) free at the moment?                                    |
| 2.) Are you        | b.) checking this morphine with me, please?                |
| 3.) Are you        | c.) got a minute? I just need a drug check.                |
| 4.) Would you mind | d.) busy at the moment or can you do a drug check with me? |

# Administering Medications

Complete the following extracts using the words in the box. What do all the expressions mean?

showed

flat out

eyeballs

run off

- 1.) No, sorry. I'm up to my \_\_\_\_\_ in work.
- 2.) I'd love to help, but I'm \_\_\_\_\_ under.
- 3.) I can't. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ at the moment.
- 4.) Actually, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ my feet.