



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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RCN 2020

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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](http://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 the medicines are available in the appropriate form, strength and packaging. AB
Procurement	Ensuring that the medicines are available in the appropriate form, strength and packaging.
Selection	Ensuring that the medicines are available in the appropriate form, strength and packaging.
Prescribing	Ensuring that the 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/](https://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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