

Nurses International

Clinical Skills

Name of the procedure/Rubric/ *Rationale*: Instilling Ear Medications

Step	Procedure	Yes	No	Remarks
1.	Check and verify the doctor's orders for ear medication with medication administration record (MAR).			
2.	<u>Perform the SEVEN RIGHTS x 3</u> (should be done with each individual medication): ☐ The right client ☐ The right medication (drug) ☐ The right dose ☐ The right route ☐ The right time ☐ The right reason ☐ The right documentation			
3.	<u>Check the label on the medication for:</u> ☐ Name ☐ Dose ☐ Route ☐ Expiry date ☐ when the medication was opened and when will it expire			
4.	<u>Perform hand hygiene and gather supplies:</u> ☐ Non-sterile gloves ☐ Warm washcloth ☐ Medication			
5.	Greet and identify the client using two identifiers (name and date of birth). Explain the procedure and obtain informed consent.			
6.	<u>Before Administering Medication:</u> ☐ Provide privacy by closing the door or pulling the bedside curtains. ☐ Compare the order and double-check the client using two identifiers. ☐ Assess client for any contraindications to the medication ☐ Adjust the height of the bed to a comfortable working position ☐ Assist the client to the side-lying position (affected area uppermost). OR sitting position tilting head to the side.			

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	☐ Do not tilt head if the client has a spinal, neck injury ☐ Perform hand hygiene and apply non-sterile gloves ☐ Cleanse external ear for any drainage using a warm wet washcloth.			
7.	<u>During medication Administration:</u> ☐ Draw the correct dose of medication with the help of a dropper. ☐ Pull the ear pinna back and up ☐ Hold the dropper tip about 1 cm above the ear canal and aim at the wall of the canal and drop the medication. Allow the medication to drop slowly (direct dropping the medication into the tympanic membrane will cause discomfort to the client) ☐ Do not touch the ear with the dropper as it causes contamination ☐ Release ear pinna ☐ Instruct the client to remain in the same position for 3-5 minutes ☐ Apply gentle pressure on the tragus (helps move medication to the tympanic membrane) ☐ Apply the cotton ball to prevent the medication from escaping (optional)			
8.	<u>After Medication Administration:</u> ☐ Return the medication to the client drawer/ medication locker ☐ Discard the other waste and supplies as per the hospital's policy ☐ Remove and discard gloves and perform hand hygiene			
9.	<u>Ensure the client's safety and comfort:</u> ☐ Return the client to his/her comfortable position ☐ Lower and lock the bed ☐ Assess to determine need for the side rails ☐ Ask if the client needs any other assistance ☐ Ensure call bell is within client's reach			
10.	Perform hand hygiene and document as per agency policy. Include date, time, dose, route; which ear the medication was instilled into (or whether it was both ears); and the client's response to the procedure.			

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11.	Evaluate the client's response to medication within an appropriate time frame.			
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Reference:

Doyle. G. R., McCutcheon. J. A. (2015). Clinical Procedures for Safer Patient Care: Instilling Eye, Ear, and Nose medication(CH. 6.5). Victoria, BC: BCcampus. Retrieved on 29th of December 2020 from <https://opentextbc.ca/clinicalskills/>