Pharmacology OSCE

Preparation
Washes / Gel - cleanses hands at outset
Sets trolley / tray for medications / injections
Includes
- Sharps container
- Tray / kidney dish
- Medicine cups
- Waste disposal
- Water in glass / jug (to aid swallowing)
- Cardex
- Drugs

The Five Rights

Patient
Check the identity of the patient by asking name and date of birth
Cross check name, DOB and hospital number
between wrist band, cardex and oral verification.
(Supplementary questions if not mentioned by student
Consideration of similar names, communication problems eg.
unconscious person or an infant.
Drug allergies – how documented? )

Drug
verify name of drug prescribed in cardex and in container
Verify that drug is within use by date
Check that any pharmacist advice on labelling is adhered to.
(10 rights - Reason and Action (explanation to pt) belong here)

Dose
verify the dose prescribed
Calculate and place required dose in medicine container
Cross check drug, dose and prescription with a second midwife

Route
verify as prescribed
(10 rights - Form belongs here)

Time
verify as prescribed
Check when drug was last given
(Supplementary questions if not mentioned by student
With PRN or X hrly prescriptions – what special precautions need to be taken ?
What should one do if drugs not administered at specified time?)

Administration
Gathers the correct medicines – no handling of tablets etc.
Checks the patient’s understanding of what drugs receiving and their purpose
Confirm that the medication has been taken.

Documentation
(one of the 10 rights)
Records drugs administered correctly on the cardex using appropriate coding system, and especially time and any variance
sign / initial (document initial / signature verifier appropriately)

(10 rights- Response belongs here – and should also be documented)
Administering intramuscular (IM) injection
- Checks patient, drug, dose, route and time as above (including second person)
- Additionally, explains procedure, assesses any anxiety and reassures and gains explicit consent.
- Draws up stated amount using syringe with needle (blue or green)
- Changes needle does NOT resheath
- Wears gloves
- Identifies suitable IM site:
  - **Deltoid** - 5cm below acromial process (up to 1ml)
  - **Ventrogluteal** – gluteus medius preferred (up to 2.5ml)
    - Opposite palm on trochanter, index to ant iliac spine, between knuckles
  - **Dorsogluteal** – gluteus maximus (up to 4ml)
    - Upper outer quadrant of buttock=DG (upper outer of upper outer=VG)
    - OR – within arc traced by thumb below finger on anterior iliac crest
  - **Thigh** – common for babies
    - Vastus lateralis mid third lateral aspect of thigh (up to 4mls in adult)
    - Rectus femoris – mid third anterior aspect of thigh
- May use alcohol swab
- Describes / demonstrates **Z skin displacement** to minimise bleeding / drug leakage
- Inserts needle (usually green) at 90 degrees / perpendicular to skin
- **Withdraws plunger** to check for / outrule blood vessel infiltration
- Administers injection in controlled fashion
- May use cotton swab and gentle pressure to aid withdrawal and avoid staining
- Does NOT rub / massage
- Disposes of sharps / syringe, gloves and swabs appropriately (Does NOT resheath)

**Administering sub-cutaneous (SC) injection**
- Can identify likely site for SC injection – usually abdomen
- Identifies orange needle for SC injection (or built-in type such as heparin or insulin)
- Can identify use of ‘pinch’ to lift tissue and the use of 45 degree angle

**Administering blood and blood products**
- Can identify and differentiate between clear fluid and blood giving sets
- Can cite drops / ml for each (or find on packaging)
- Can identify the key aspects of blood administration check beyond correct patient identification (Name, DOB and Hospital number) ie.
  - ABO group
  - Rhesus (D antibody) status
  - Other named / identified antibodies
- Can cross check these between blood bag and blood form
- Can identify (list) at least THREE indications of transfusion reaction
  - Pyrexia / fever * Tachycardia / increased pulse rate
  - Change in Blood pressure – usually drop / shock
  - Generalised rash / itch * Feeling unwell, weak / faint, nausea, headache
  - Respiratory difficulties, breathlessness, cyanosis
  - Anaphylactic swelling / closure of airways
  - Back / loin / kidney pain * Collapse

**On obtaining / labelling blood samples**
- Can explain the need for hand-written blood bottles /tubes and sample bags (why patient identity stickers alone are NOT satisfactory)