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Mixing Two Injectable Medicines in the Same Syringe

Issue

A recent medicines incident reported that two psychotropic medicines were mixed in the same syringe and administered to a patient. These were midazolam and clopixol acuphase, which were prescribed as “stat” doses and to be given at the same time.

Learning Points

- ***In Mental Health care, different medicines must NOT be mixed in the same syringe.***
- Injections must not be mixed in the same syringe because they may not be compatible.
- Incompatibility can involve precipitation, ionic reactions and denaturation of biological molecules.
- If two psychotropic medicines are to be given by injection at the same time, they must be drawn up in separate syringes and administered separately.

Exceptions: In Community Health Newham, mixing two injectable medicines may be common practice, for instance, when delivery is via a syringe driver. Always check the compatibility of the two medicines before administering. Contact your pharmacist or Medicines Information on 020 8510 8295 or 07947681733.