

Completing the ALLERGY Section on Drug Charts

Date: 8 November 2012

No: 8


Results of the 2012 Trust wide medication audit:

(Administration) Standard A: Where the allergy box on the drug chart has been left blank, medicines have not been administered, 30% Failed and (Prescribing) Standard G, Allergy section must be completed and not left blank, 11% Failed.

- A 2007 NPSA report states that patients being given medicine to which they were known to be allergic accounted for 3.2% of all medication incidents reported; 33% of these resulted in harm and 5% in severe harm or death.
- The NPSA recommends that healthcare professionals do not prescribe, dispense or administer a drug if unsure of the patient's allergy status

The trust's medicines policy states:

- The nurse should check the patient is not allergic to all prescribed medicines before administering.
- The allergy / sensitivity box on the medicines chart must state the allergy status of the patient. The box should never be left blank.

East London 		CHART.....1..... OF.....1.....	
NHS Foundation Trust			
Medication Prescription and Administration Record			
SURNAME BLOGGS	PATIENT / HOSPITAL NUMBER 1000 00		
FIRST NAME JOSEPH	SEX MALE	DATE OF ADMISSION 01/11/2012	
DOB 01/06/1980	ANY RELEVANT CLINICAL CONDITION e.g. PREGNANCY		
HOSPITAL CHCMH	WARD / UNIT ANYWHERE		
CONSULTANT ANYBODY	SHO NAME / BLEEP		
ALLERGIES / ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS			SIGN
			DATE
Note: This prescription and administration record should be used with the Trust Medicines Policy			

- If the allergies box has not been completed, medicines should not be administered and the prescription should be referred back to the prescriber.
- The administering nurse should review the allergy status verbally, with the patient, as a double check of identity and allergies to medicines before administration.

Only true allergies should be documented in the allergy box and not side effects:

- A drug allergy is a rare condition in which the body's immune system responds to a drug and causes adverse health effects.
- A drug intolerance or side effect is different from a drug allergy, since it does not involve an immune reaction. A drug intolerance is an adverse effect from a drug.