

The College of Nurses of Ontario presents the Medication Learning Module An Overview.

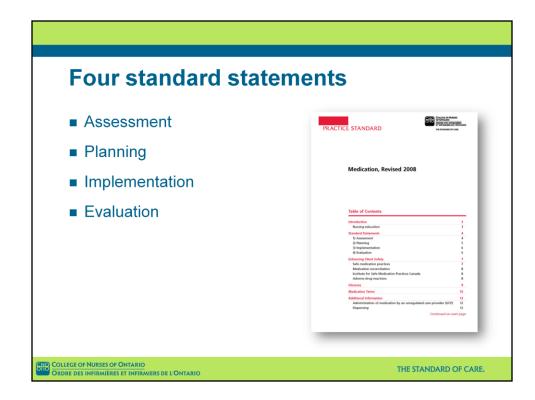


Safe and ethical medication practice is an important part of client care. As with any nursing procedure, administering, recommending or prescribing a medication requires knowledge, technical skills and judgment.

Medication administration is a continual process that goes beyond the task of giving a medication to a client. Nurses must apply their knowledge about the client and the medication when assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating their nursing care and the impact on the client.

In the *Medication* practice standard, and in this presentation, the term "medication" includes prescription medication, over-the-counter medication and herbal preparations.

Links to College practice documents and other resources, including related websites, referred to in this chapter can be found on the home page of the learning module.



The *Medication* practice standard is divided into four standard statements that describe broad principles that guide nursing process related to medication. These are: assessment planning implementation and evaluation.

Each of these standard statements will be addressed in the following chapters.

The standard statements have been listed in this order for clarity; however, the process of medication administration is not linear. For example, it is expected that the first component, assessment, will occur throughout the process.

## What governs medication practice?

- Medication practice standard
- Workplace policies and procedures
- Relevant legislation





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THE STANDARD OF CARE.

In addition to the standard statements, nurses also need to be familiar with their workplace policies and procedures and relevant legislation on medication administration.

Two pieces of legislation that govern nursing practice are the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* and the *Nursing Act, 1991*. Also, depending on your practice setting, you may need to know other relevant legislation, for example, the *Long Term Care Homes Act* or the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*.

## **Quality practice**

College practice standards apply to all nurses.

## Nurses:

- must reflect on their role in improving their practice settings
- should advocate for policies that support the application of the Medication practice standard

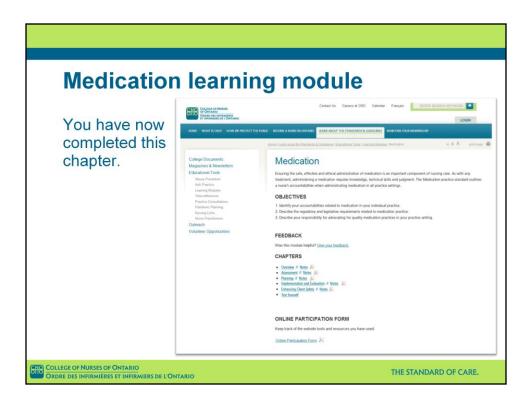




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THE STANDARD OF CARE.

The College's practice standards apply to all nurses, regardless of their role, job description or area of practice. As self-regulated professionals, nurses must reflect on their role in improving their practice settings, and should advocate for workplace policies and practices that support the application of the *Medication* practice document.



You have now completed this chapter. To continue the learning module, close this presentation, return to the Learning Centre and select the chapter of your choice.

If you have a question for a Practice Consultant, click on the link in the upper right-hand corner.