

Five Rights of Medication Administration

Nebraska law states that those administering medication must follow the 5 rights, and must accurately document all medication given (minimum competencies D and E). Use this quick reference guide to help you administer medication safely to students.
Source: Title 172, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 95, Administration of Medications by Medication Aides and Medication Staff, Section 004

✓ 1: Right Student



First, verify that you have the correct student prior to giving any medication.

- Check the name on the medication bottle and compare it to the Medication Authorization Form and the Student Medication Log.
- Always ask the student to tell you his/her name and make sure it is the same name as on the medication bottle and forms, even if you know the student.

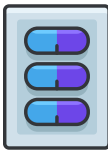
✓ 2: Right Medication



Next, verify you have the right medication.

- Check the medication bottle with the Medication Authorization Form and the Student Medication Log to confirm that the medication is the same in all three places.
- Make sure the medication is in its original container and is labeled correctly. The name of the medication must match exactly with the medication on the Medication Authorization Form.

✓ 3: Right Dose



Make sure the dose on the Medication Authorization Form matches what is on the prescription bottle.

- Many medications come in different strengths so you must verify that what was prescribed on the Medication Authorization Form is what is on the prescription bottle.
- Medications can only be administered in the dose ordered on the Medication Authorization Form.

✓ 4: Right Time



Give the medication at the specified time.

- All medications need to be given approximately within 30 minutes of the prescribed time to be given.
- For medications given later in the afternoon, remind parents that on early release days the medication will not be given at school that day.

✓ 5: Right Route



Check the route the medication is to be given.

- Usual routes of medications include oral, topical, instilled in eyes or ears and inhaled.
- Deliver the medication according to best practices for the designated route.

✓ Plus: Right Documentation



Accurately document all medication provided including the name of the medication, dose, route, and time administered and any refusal of medication, and spoilage.

