

Chapter 30

ASSISTING WITH MEDICATIONS

What You Will Learn

- The role of the basic personal care aide when assisting with medications in a home setting.
- The role of the advanced personal care aide when assisting with medications in a home setting.

NOTE: THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS TO CLIENTS IN THEIR HOMES BY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IS CONSIDERED A DUTY OF THE LICENSED NURSE. THE IN-HOME AIDE IS PERMITTED TO ASSIST THE CLIENT WITH SELF ADMINISTRATION OF NON-INJECTABLE MEDICATIONS AS PERMITTED PER IN-HOME PROVIDER'S POLICY.

The Basic Personal Care Aide

The basic personal care aide is permitted to assist the client with medications by completing the following tasks:

- Handing a client a medication bottle or container at their request.
- Assisting a client to open a medication bottle or container at their request.
- Pouring a glass of water and handing it to the client.
- Applying non-prescription topical ointments, creams, or lotions at the client's request.

The Advanced Personal Care Aide

The advanced personal care aide is permitted to assist the client with medications by completing the following tasks:

- All tasks performed by the basic personal care aide.
- Applying medicated or prescription topical ointments, creams or lotions.
- Applying dry non-sterile dressing to unbroken skin, including a Stage I pressure ulcer, using clean technique.
- Prompting the client to self administer medications including:
 - Opening medication containers or Medi-Planners filled by the licensed nurse.
 - Steadying the client's arm during the self administration of medications.

Chapter Review

1. What is the role of the basic personal care aide when assisting with medications in a home setting?
2. What is the role of the advanced personal care aide when assisting with medications in a home setting?

Student Exercise

Complete the following short answer questions.

1. List four basic personal care tasks the In-Home Aide can perform when assisting a client who is taking medications.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

2. List three advanced personal care tasks the In-Home Aide can perform when assisting the client who is taking medications.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.