

Flinders University, Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery students are required to administer medications during their Professional Placements and to adhere to the following guidelines ensuring patient/client safety and compliance with national regulations and legislation.

Medication Calculation Assessment

1. All students undertaking a placement in second year will be required to complete a medication calculation assessment **each** semester for **each placement topic** where medication administration is taught, and administration of medications is permitted. All students undertaking a placement in third year will be required to complete a medication calculation assessment prior to their first placement in that year. All students must achieve 100% in this medication assessment prior to commencing placement or prior to the census date whichever occurs first. Students who do not obtain 100% for their medication calculation assessment (after the prescribed number of attempts) **will not** be permitted to attend a placement in that topic at that time.

Student supervision

2. All students must be under the **direct** supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN) or Registered Midwife (RM) or Medical Officer (MO) in the preparation, checking, administration and documentation of all medications.
3. Enrolled Nurse (EN) and Personal Care Workers (PCW), even those who have been accredited for medication administration, are **not permitted** to directly supervise a nursing or midwifery student preparing, checking and/or administering a medication.

Student medication administration per year level

4. The *Summary Table 1: Specific placement topic permissions and administration routes* (below) outlines the permissible administration of any type or route of medication administration by any nursing or midwifery student according to the placement topic enrolled. The table must be read in conjunction with the requirements contained in these guidelines. Whilst this guideline reflects the topic content and skill of the student, **it is important to note that venue policy on administration of medications by students must be adhered to in the first instance**. Therefore, if the venue does not permit a student in NURS2027 to administer IV medications then students in that venue must not participate in this activity.
5. Year 1 nursing and midwifery students are **not permitted** to prepare, check and/or administer any medications regardless of the route. Students are, however, encouraged to observe the preparation, checking and administration of such medications as a learning opportunity. If a 1st year nursing or midwifery student is requested by a RN, RM, EN, PCW or MO to prepare, check or administer any medication, the student **must** refuse to do so and contact the Placement Facilitator to report the incident.
6. Students permitted to administer medications as per the summary table, may only administer medications that they have prepared and checked under **direct** supervision (see Guideline 1). Following administration, students must follow correct documentation procedures as per the venue's requirements and Guideline 8. Students must **NEVER** administer a medication that they have not prepared and checked.
7. **No students are permitted to prepare, check or administer any Schedule 8 medications or Schedule 4 (prescribed restricted) medications which are venue-designated to be stored in the Schedule 8 medication locked cupboard, or a specially designated locked cupboard**. Students are, however, encouraged to observe the preparation, checking and administration of such medications as a learning opportunity.

Checking of Medications

8. If a student is involved in the preparation, checking and administration of a medication that venue policy dictates must be checked by two Registered Nurses or Midwives (that is, injectable medications, oral medications such as warfarin and digoxin and all medications given to neonatal/paediatric patients) the medication must still be checked by two Registered Nurses or Midwives OR a Registered Nurse/Midwife and an Enrolled Nurse. If the student is asked to check such a medication being prepared and administered by another RN, RM or MO, they may only do so as the third person. As per Guideline 12, this includes students who are Enrolled or Registered Nurses or Registered Midwives.

Medication Documentation

9. Following the administration of a medication, the nursing or midwifery student must sign or initial the medication chart as per venue policy, with the following notations next to their initials: NS (Nursing Student) or SM (Student Midwife). The entry must be signed by the RN(s) or RM(s) who directly supervised the preparation, checking and administration of the medication.

Venue Protocols

10. Nursing and midwifery students will follow the venue's protocols regarding medication administration, at all times. Students and Placement Facilitators must ensure they are familiar with the venue's protocols for medication administration prior to engaging in this activity. Where the University and venue policies differ, the student must always adhere to the venue policy with consideration for their scope of practice.

Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration/ enrolment

11. Regardless of registration or enrolment with AHPRA, whilst on a university placement the student's scope of practice is limited to that of a student and within the boundaries of venue policy. Please note, if a student is reported to AHPRA in relation to a medication incident whilst on placement, their existing registration status with AHPRA may be taken into consideration during any investigation.

Breach of guidelines

12. The consequence for any nursing or midwifery student who contravenes any of the above guidelines will be the immediate withdrawal from placement due to unsafe practice until the outcome of an investigation is determined.

***Note:** for the definition of 'medicine' refer to the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (current)*, Section 3 Interpretation <https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2015C00471>

Summary Table 1: Specific placement topic permissions and administration routes.

Specific placement topic route commencement permissions	Administration route								
	Oral/Enteric/Gastrostomy/ Sublingual Medication (non- opiate based)	Topical Medication	Transdermal (non-opiate based)	Installations (Eyes/Ears/Nose)	Inhalations (Nebulisers/Pufffers)	Per-Rectum/Per-Vaginal	Subcutaneous/Intramuscular (non-opiate based)	Intravenous medications (non-opiate based)	Epidural (non-opiate based)
No medication preparation, checking or administration in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIDW1002 Midwifery 1 MIDW1004A Contexts of Midwifery Practice MIDW1007 Maternal and Infant Assessment Skills NURS1027 Nursing Practice and Professional Practice 1 	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Prepared, checked and administered under direct supervision of an RN/RM/MO and checked by second RN/RM/MO/EN as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIDW2201 Midwifery Skills (Pre-registration only) NURS2022 Nursing Practice and Professional Practice 2 NURS2027 Nursing Practice and Professional Practice 1B 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Prepared, checked and administered under direct supervision of an RN/RM/MO and checked by second RN/RM/MO/EN as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIDW2204 Midwifery Care for the Woman and Baby with Complex Needs MIDW2201 Midwifery Skills (RN entry only) NURS2026 Nursing Practice and Professional Practice 3 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Prepared, checked and administered under direct supervision of an RN/RM/MO and checked by second RN/RM/MO/EN as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIDW3302 Midwifery Practice MIDW3304 Clinical Knowledge for Midwifery Practice MIDW3306 Midwifery Practicum NURS3011 Nursing Practice and Professional Practice 4 NURS3013 Nursing Practice and Professional Practice 5 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Handling, preparing, checking or administration of Schedule 8 drugs is NOT permitted by any student. Students are also not permitted to prepare, check or administer Schedule 4 medications which are venue-designated to be kept in the Schedule 8 medications locked cupboard, or a specially designated locked cupboard.	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗