

## SFHAH12

# Enable individuals to take their medication as prescribed



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### Overview

This standard is about helping individuals understand the effects and benefits of the medication prescribed for them and the importance of complying with their treatment regime.

This standard is for all practitioners who are required to advise individuals about their medication and the importance of taking their medication as prescribed.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 confirm the medication, the dose, the frequency of dispensing, the route and frequency of administration and the length of course of treatment
- P2 check that individuals understand why and how their medication should be taken
- P3 explain the likely effects and benefits of the use of their prescribed medication
- P4 explain the consequences of not taking their prescribed medication
- P5 identify any reasons for individuals not wishing to take their prescribed medication
- P6 seek to reassure individuals and rationalise any fears they may have
- P7 ensure that individuals are aware of any potential side effects and the risks involved in exceeding the prescribed dose
- P8 explain any potential consequences of combining prescribed medication with other substances (eg illegal drugs, over-the-counter drugs, alcohol)
- P9 explain to individuals the importance of keeping medicines in a safe place and out of reach of children
- P10 where appropriate, advise individuals that it is illegal to drive under the influence of certain drugs
- P11 adapt your communication style and the amount of information provided according to the needs and abilities of the individual (eg English as a second language, cognitive ability, hearing or sight impairment)
- P12 where appropriate, provide individuals with supporting information that can be taken away and consulted later
- P13 ensure that the information and/or advice offered is accurate, relevant and complies with national guidelines and local protocols.

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to different people (eg English as a second language, cognitive ability, hearing or sight impairment)
- K2 how to check individuals' understanding
- K3 how to identify any reasons for individuals not wishing to take their prescribed medication
- K4 how to assess individuals' concerns, reassure them and rationalise any fears they may have
- K5 the effects and benefits of the use of prescribed medication
- K6 the consequences of not taking the prescribed medication
- K7 potential side effects of the medication and the risks involved in exceeding the prescribed dose
- K8 the potential consequences of combining prescribed medication with other substances (eg illegal drugs, over-the-counter drugs, alcohol)
- K9 the principle of confidentiality under data protection legislation: what information may be given to whom
- K10 how to ensure that the information and/or advice offered is accurate, relevant and complies with national guidelines and local protocols
- K11 the legal restrictions on driving whilst under the influence of certain drugs and your legal obligation to ensure individuals are aware of these
- K12 organisational requirements and policies relevant to the functions being carried out.

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### **Additional Information**

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health.  
This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge  
and Skills Framework (October 2004):  
Dimension: HWB4 Enablement to address health and wellbeing needs

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