# Administer drug treatments for individuals experiencing acute coronary syndrome (ACS)



#### **Overview**

This standard covers administering drug treatments for individuals experiencing acute coronary syndrome (ACS).

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 assess the potential benefit of treatment against potential risk for the individual, taking account of any known contra-indications
- P2 ensure the individual meets the inclusion criteria for thrombolysis where this treatment is necessary
- P3 obtain consent from the individual, having first explained the risks and benefits
- P4 take any necessary precautions to ensure the health and safety of yourself and the individual
- P5 select and prepare equipment for the administration of drugs and check that it is in the correct condition for use, taking measures to prevent contamination or cross-infection
- P6 select, check, prepare and administer the correct drugs of the required dilution and dose in line with national legislation and local protocols
- P7 administer drugs with minimum delay after the cardiac event
- P8 check and record the individual's physiological parameters at specified intervals in line with local protocols
- P9 immediately deal with any deviations from acceptable limits of the individual's physiological parameters and/or report to the appropriate person
- P10 ensure the individual has continuous cardiac monitoring with alarms set at parameters appropriate to the individual
- P11 review the effectiveness of the treatment at the appropriate time and take the necessary action
- P12 deal with and/or report to the appropriate person any signs of adverse reaction by the individual
- P13 complete documentation relating to the administration of drugs in a manner that is accurate, legible and processed according to national legislation and local protocols

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## Knowledge and understanding

### You need to know and understand:

- K1 why it is important to reassure the individual and family members, and explain intended actions
- K2 the importance of completed documentation for clinical governance
- K3 the importance of obtaining full and accurate information about individuals and how to do so
- K4 the principle of informed consent, and how to obtain informed consent from individuals
- K5 the actions to take if informed consent cannot be obtained
- K6 national legislation and local protocols for the administration of drugs
- K7 types of equipment in relation to drug administration routes and types of drugs
- K8 methods of calculating the required dosage of drugs
- K9 methods of drug administration
- K10 how to complete documentation relating to the use and administration of drugs
- K11 the types of contra-indications which may need to be taken into account
- K12 health and safety regulations, including COSHH, handling of drugs and sharps
- K13 causes and factors that lead to acute coronary syndromes
- K14 how to read an ECG and the possible changes associated with acute coronary syndromes
- K15 why it is important to administer drugs with minimum delay after the cardiac event
- K16 what equipment and drugs are needed to ensure drugs are administered in a safe environment
- K17 types, properties, function and effect of drugs used for acute coronary syndrome
- K18 causes and manifestations of individuals' adverse reactions to drugs and appropriate responses
- K19 how to assess whether drugs have been effective
- K20 how to manage the adverse effects of drugs and the reasons why this may be necessary

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#### **Additional Information**

**External Links** 

This standard links with the following dimensions and levels within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (August 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments.

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