

Appendix S2: examples of prescribing tips

Avoid errors when prescribing IV Pabrinex®: Good Prescribing Tip of the fortnight (this prescription has been re-written to maintain the anonymity of the prescriber)

This is a prescription for an adult patient, what is the dose for this prescription?

Regular Prescriptions		Time	Date
Medicine approved name	PABRINEX	Frequency	TDS
Dose	1+1	Route	IV
Signature	Dr. Good Example	Start Date	2/11/14
Pharmacy	Bleep 9155	Stop Date	
Additional instructions	1 pair = ampoules	Additional instructions	

- 1 pair ('ampoule I' + 'ampoule II') TDS
- 2 pairs i.e. 2 x ('ampoule I' + 'ampoule II') TDS
- Only 'ampoule II' TDS
- Not sure

Answer: it's not clear!

The error:

The intended prescription is for 2 pairs of Pabrinex® ('ampoule I' + 'ampoule II') three times a day. However, the prescription can be easily misinterpreted.

The clearest way to prescribe the intended dose is:

Medicine (approved name): **Pabrinex I + II** Dose: **2 pairs** Frequency: **TDS**

Ambiguous prescribing of Pabrinex® may lead to the inappropriate treatment of Wernicke-Korsakoff Syndrome which can have fatal consequences

Prescribing tips:

- One single dose of Pabrinex® consists of both ampoule I AND ampoule II



- Both ampoules must be administered:
 - Ampoule No. I contains thiamine, riboflavin and pyridoxine
 - Ampoule No. II contains ascorbic acid, nicotinamide and anhydrous glucose
- Pabrinex® should be prescribed as either '1 pair' or '2 pairs' so the instruction for administration is clear:

Regular Prescriptions		Time	Date
Medicine approved name	PABRINEX I+II	Frequency	TDS
Dose	2 pairs	Route	IV
Signature	Dr. Good Example	Start Date	2/11/14
Pharmacy	Bleep 9155	Stop Date	
Additional instructions	1 pair = ampoules	Additional instructions	

Remember to use your name-stamp or print your name when prescribing

Anonymised for review purposes

Avoid errors when prescribing drugs with unusual frequencies: Good Prescribing Tip of the fortnight (this prescription has been re-written to maintain the anonymity of the prescriber)

This is a prescription for an adult patient, can you spot the error?

Regular Prescriptions		Time	Date
Medicine approved name	Alendronic Acid	Frequency	ONCE A WEEK
Dose	70mg	Route	PO
Signature	Dr. Good Example	Start Date	2/11/14
Pharmacy	Bleep 9155	Stop Date	
Additional instructions	ONE A WEEK FRIDAYS	Additional instructions	

The error:

This patient erroneously received alendronic acid (alendronate) on two consecutive days instead of once a week because the dose administration section of the chart had not been clearly marked.

An overdose of alendronic acid may cause hypocalcaemia, hypophosphataemia or upper gastro-intestinal adverse events

For drugs with an unusual dosing schedule, the days and times the dose is due must be indicated explicitly on the administration section of the drug chart, otherwise the patient may receive an incorrect dose

Prescribing tips:

- Explicitly indicate when the dose is due by marking the whole of the dose administration section of the chart, to ensure the drug is administered on the intended days and times only.
- Some examples of prescribing drugs with unusual frequencies:

Once a week

Every 36 hours

3 times a week

Regular Prescriptions		Time	Date
Medicine approved name	ALENDRONIC A.C.D	Frequency	ONCE A WEEK
Dose	70mg	Route	PO
Signature	Dr. Good Example	Start Date	2/11/14
Pharmacy	Bleep 9155	Stop Date	
Additional instructions	FRIDAYS	Additional instructions	
Medicine approved name	AMIKACIN	Frequency	36*
Dose	4g	Route	IV
Signature	Dr. Good Example	Start Date	2/11/14
Pharmacy	Bleep 9155	Stop Date	
Additional instructions	3 times a week	Additional instructions	
Medicine approved name	HYDROXYCOBALAMIN	Frequency	3 times a week
Dose	1mg	Route	IM
Signature	Dr. Good Example	Start Date	2/11/14
Pharmacy	Bleep 9155	Stop Date	
Additional instructions	3 times a week	Additional instructions	

Cross through the days and times the dose is not due

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