

ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS

Nursing Tip Sheet

DEFINITION: Adverse Drug Reactions are responses to medications that can be problematic, allergic reaction or result in anaphylaxis.

Adverse Consequence is an unpleasant symptom or negative outcome that is due to or associated with a medication.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

1. Respiratory distress: Dyspnea, wheezing, choking, cyanosis, respiratory arrest
2. Dermatologic changes: Urticaria, erythema, angioedema, pruritus
3. Gastrointestinal complaints: Nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, bleeding
4. Vascular response: Rapidly falling blood pressure, chills, sweating, weakness, anxiety, thready pulse, dizziness, cardiovascular collapse
5. Neurological: Change in level of consciousness and sensorium, change in mood and behavior, altered coordination and functional status.

ASSESSMENT

Before administering any medication, obtain a **complete drug reaction and food sensitivity history.** Document results in the resident's medical record and notify the pharmacy.

MONITORING

Instruct resident as to what signs and symptoms of side effects or reactions to report at once.

Wait and observe patient for at least 30 minutes after first time new IV drug administration.

GENERAL ACTIONS:

- ★ Hold medication
- ★ Notify the physician and family.
- ★ Notify the consultant pharmacist
- ★ Continue to evaluate vital signs and symptoms should anaphylaxis be suspected.
- ★ Administer medications and treatments as prescribed by physician
- ★ Document event and actions in medical record.
- ★ Implement an acute care plan to manage the symptoms

See Reverse Side for Additional Specific Actions

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS:

Respiratory distress:

- Initiate oxygen as ordered. Check the SPO2
 - Administer emergency medications as ordered
 - Keep resident in High Fowlers to ease respirations
 - Monitor vital signs
 - If symptoms appear life-threatening, Call 911, if applicable to DNR status
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Dermatologic changes:

- Manage any itching with support medications as ordered
 - Administer emergency medications as ordered
 - Monitor for any exacerbation of the symptoms.
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Gastrointestinal complaints:

- Provide comfort measures to management vomiting and diarrhea
 - Administer support medications as ordered
 - Alter oral intake to clear fluid or only foods that appeal OR hold oral intake as necessary
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Vascular response

- Place in bed, in Trendelenburg position if necessary
 - Monitor vital signs, especially blood pressure
 - Monitor level of consciousness
 - Administer emergency drugs as ordered
 - If symptoms appear life-threatening, Call 911, if applicable to DNR status
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Neurological:

- Employ safety precautions to prevent falls/accidents/injuries
- Assist resident with ADL needs
- Monitor behaviors, such hallucinations, delusions, confusion to self, time, place, loss of judgment and executive skills
- Evaluate alterations in functional status, especially ambulation, transfer and feeding skills