

Safe Administration of Medications

The Red Apron Initiative

Unless it is essential, please do not interrupt a nurse wearing a red apron as he or she is administering medications.



Contact Details:

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All Social Workers are registered under CORU, the Health and Social Care Professionals Council



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The [National Rehabilitation Hospital](http://www.nrh.ie) is accredited by CARF (Commission for accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) for a range of services, confirming they meet recognized international standards



An tOspidéal Náisiúnta Athshlánúcháin

A Guide to Medication Safety



A guide to medication safety while you are an inpatient, on weekend leave, or are being discharged

On Admission

Bring all your medications with you to the NRH and give them to nursing staff on your arrival

During Your Stay

The Pharmacy Department supplies all your medicines while you are an Inpatient. Please be on the Unit at drug administration times.

Do not take over-the-counter medications during your stay at the NRH — the Pharmacists will answer any questions you have about the medicines.

On Discharge

The Pharmacist can advise you on your medicines during your stay, or prior to discharge, and give you information leaflets. Pharmacy supply weekend leave medications.

The Nurse will ask how many days you are going home for — please ensure you have enough medicines for your weekend leave; don't forget to take them home with you and give any unused medicines to the Nurse on your return to the NRH.

The Pharmacist will give a three day supply of medicines on discharge so that you have time to go to the community pharmacy.

If considering use of herbal or other remedies following your injury, always discuss first with your doctor.

Safe Administration of Medications

We want to ensure safety when nurses are administering medications at the time of the drug round on the Unit.

Our aim is to reduce the volume of interruptions and distractions nurses experience during the drug round.

This helps ensure staff can devote their full attention to administering medication — a task which requires a high level of concentration.



On each Unit, nurses wear a **red apron** to alert staff and patients to the fact that they are administering medications



Unless it is essential, please do not interrupt a nurse wearing a red apron like that shown in the photograph above.

Instead, please refer any questions or concerns you may have to another nurse who is not administering medications.