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Rational Medicine Use - Pregnancy Case

Practical 9 - Clinical pharmacy case practical

Aim

To assess rational medicine use in a patient with special clinical considerations.

Principle

Age, organ function, pregnancy, formulation and evidence availability can alter medicine suitability. A mathematical scaling rule cannot replace product- and patient-specific clinical assessment.

Materials and Requirements

- Fictional or approved de-identified case, medicine chart and laboratory record
- Current local policy, relevant product information and clinical guidance
- Pharmaceutical-care and communication worksheet
- Approved method or teaching-data pack and a dated record sheet

Procedure

1. Define the preparation or dataset, study question and method version. Record identities, units and the criteria to be used before examining the outcome.
2. Identify the question, patient-specific information and missing data. Use the supplied fictional record; do not create a prescription or administer a preparation.
3. Verify exact age, weight, relevant organ function or pregnancy stage, indication and complete medicines.
4. Check the evidence and product information for the relevant population, including formulation, monitoring and alternative options.
5. Perform only the calculation needed to check an existing authorised plan, with independent unit verification.
6. Document benefits, risks, uncertainty and the specialist or prescriber decision needed.
7. Document the assessment, evidence, proposed action, responsible clinician and follow-up. Separate a student recommendation from an authorised treatment decision.
8. Retain the original observations and calculations. State deviations, missing information and the limits of the conclusion; do not replace measured values with expected results.

Observations and Record

Enter actual measurements or the supplied teaching data. Record the method, material identity, conditions and units.

Problem / evidence	Goal / priority	Proposed action / owner	Monitoring / follow-up
Safety or urgent issue	Define	Escalate appropriately	Specify
Effectiveness / adherence	Define	Discuss with team	Specify
Information gap	State	Obtain evidence	Review

Worked Example

Use the population-specific fictional assignment below; do not create a patient dose from a general formula.

Assigned population

• Fictional patient is pregnant and asks about a regular medicine. Verify gestational stage, indication, alternatives and reliable pregnancy evidence; coordinate clinician review and do not recommend abrupt withdrawal solely because of pregnancy.

Result and Interpretation

• Produce an individualised review with information gaps, a justified clinical query and follow-up.

Precautions

• Protect confidentiality and use actual units and timing.
• Check allergy, indication, organ function, interactions and the complete medicine list.
• Urgent clinical findings need timely clinical assessment; teaching notes do not replace care.

Viva Questions and Answers

Can adult doses always be scaled by weight?

No; developmental and product-specific evidence matters.

Why specify the kidney estimate?

The relevant dosing evidence may use a particular measure.

Does pregnancy automatically require stopping every medicine?

The benefit-risk assessment must be individualised with the treating team.

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