

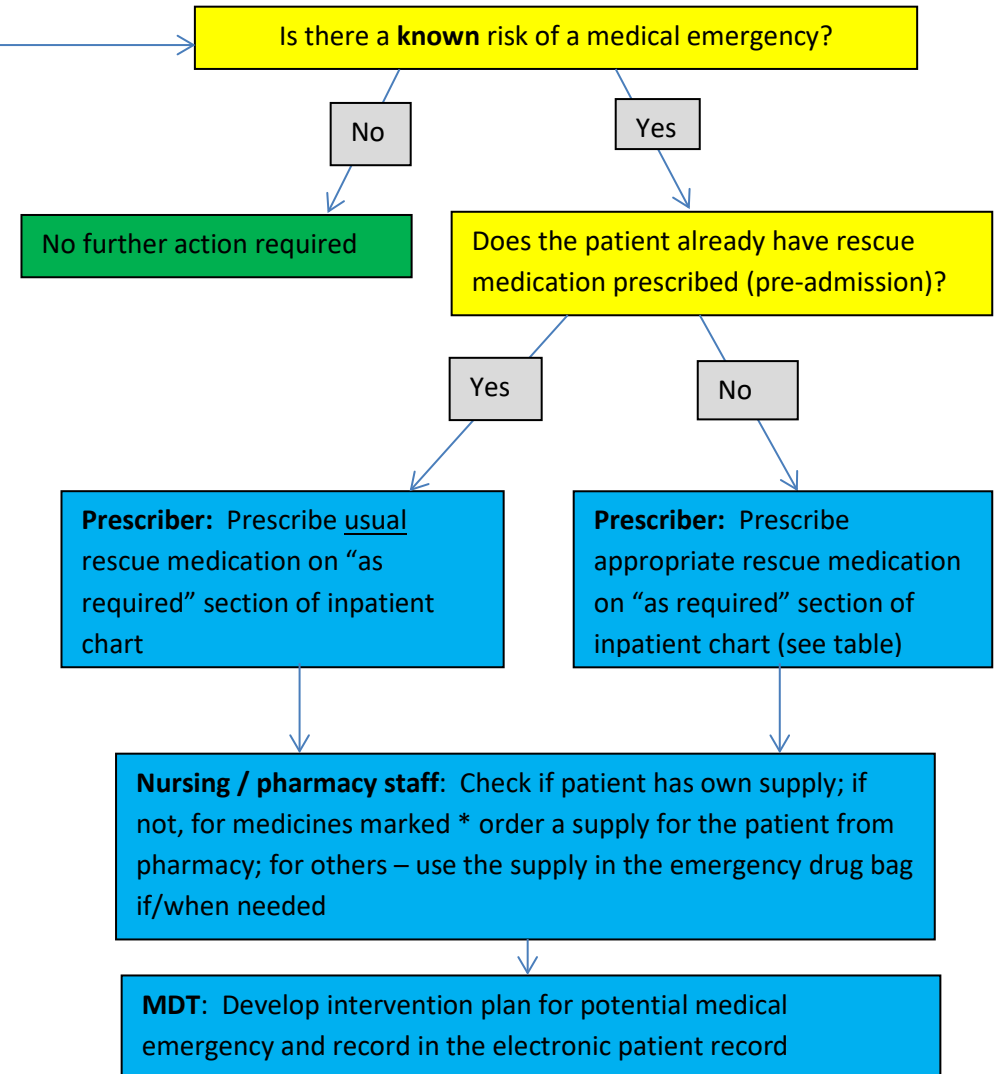
PRESCRIBING FOR POTENTIAL MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

This process covers the proactive assessment of patients on admission for potential medical emergencies, and where they exist the steps to prescribe and obtain the rescue medicines required to treat the medical emergency.

Within 6 hours of admission:

- Assess physical health status (baseline observations and physical examination)
- Review medical history for known physical health conditions
- Assess potential for medical emergency associated with health status or known conditions

Known medical condition	Exacerbation / emergency	Rescue medication (options) <i>Doses for adults and children >12yo</i>
Contact emergency services (9)999 if no response to any of the following treatments after 10 minutes Adrenaline & glucagon can be administered without a prescription in an emergency situation		
Allergy	Anaphylaxis / angioedema	Adrenaline , by IM injection – 500 micrograms, repeated if necessary at 5 minute intervals according to BP, pulse and respiratory function; maximum 3 doses [dose for self-injectors may differ – see BNF]
Asthma	Asthma attack	*Salbutamol inhaler , 2-10 puffs each inhaled separately via a large-volume spacer. Repeat at 10-20 minute intervals if necessary
Coronary heart disease	Chest pain	*GTN spray , 1 or 2 sprays under the tongue and then close the mouth. Repeat after minimum of 5 minutes if necessary.
Diabetes (<i>patients prescribed insulin, gliclazide or combination therapy</i>)	Hypoglycaemia	Dextrose gel , 1 tube/sachet, repeat after 10-15 mins if glucose remains low Glucagon , bodyweight <25kg – 500 micrograms, >25kg - 1 mg; by IM injection
Epilepsy Risk of seizures, <i>e.g. alcohol detox – diazepam only</i>	Seizure / status epilepticus	Diazepam rectal tube , 10-20 mg (1-2 tubes). Repeat once after 10-15 minutes if necessary *Midazolam buccal , 10 mg then 10 mg after 10 minutes if required
Opioid dependence - opioid substitute prescribed	Opioid Overdose	Naloxone 400 micrograms SC/IM; if no response after 1 minute give 800 micrograms, and if still no response after another 1 minute, repeat dose of 800 micrograms; if still no response give 2mg (4mg may be required in a seriously poisoned patient).



Title	Prescribing for Potential Medical Emergencies		
Approved by	Drug & Therapeutic Committee	Date of Approval	25 th May 2017 (amended 21 st Nov 2019)
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