Barcode Medication Administration (BCMA)

While safety nets are placed at various points, safeguards at medication administration provide the last line of defense for medication safety. BCMA is one of strongest error prevention tools available, **if conducted appropriately.**

BCMA assists nurses in conducting the **6 Rights of Medication Administration** electronically – *right patient, right medications, right dose, right route, right time*, and *right documentation*. BCMA also performs allergy and other safety checks.

Going Beyond Scanning Compliance

- Evaluate BCMA process steps to prevent patient harm.

Examples of Incorrect BCMA Process Steps

Incorrect Action	Potential Error	Correct Action
Administering medication without scanning patient ID	**Wrong Patient**	Patient ID scanning included as first scanning step
Administering medication without scanning medication barcode	**Wrong Medication, Dose, Route, Time**	Conduct BCMA prior to administration
Patient ID barcode placed on another object	**Wrong Patient**	Maintain Patient IDs only on patients
Scanning patient sticker instead of patient ID band	**Wrong Patient**	Conduct BCMA patient scans with Patient ID armbands
Preparing, scanning, and transporting medications for more than 1 patient at a time	**Wrong Patient, Wrong Medication, Wrong Dose**	Prepare, scan, and administer medications for 1 patient at time
Scanning medication barcode after barcode label has been removed from the medication itself	**Wrong Medication, Dose, Route**	Conduct BCMA prior to administration with product or pharmacy supplied labels without manipulation
Scanning the same medication package multiple times when multiple medication packages required for full dose	**Wrong Medication, Dose**	Conduct BCMA with each individual product intended for administration
Scanning in a location where alert cannot be seen	**Wrong Patient, Medication, Dose, Route, Time**	Ensure visibility of EMR screens to address alerts & advisories during BCMA
Overriding BCMA warnings without proper review	**Wrong Patient, Medication, Dose, Route, Time**	Evaluate warnings for potential safety advisories. Escalate alerts requiring further review