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Computers

Drug list update

THE medication list in clinical software must reflect the patient's current medication, including the correct strength, dose, frequency, instructions and number of repeats. Often GPs do not update the medication list, leading other health providers, especially specialists, to complain about the accuracy of the clinical information in GP referrals, plans and assessments.

Medical Director has a prompt to update or remove "limited elapse" medications, but you must manually remove a longer-term medication that has been stopped.

To delete medications, click once on the medication you wish to delete — this will highlight it. Press the Delete key on the keyboard or right click on the item and select Delete.

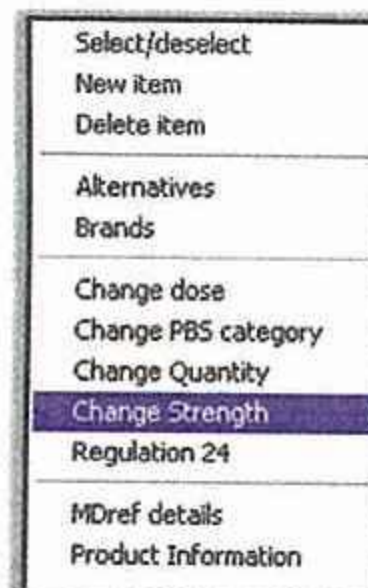
The most common mistake I see is where the doctor re-prescribes from scratch when wanting to change the strength, dose or brand name of a medication. Often this leads to duplicates.

To change the strength of a medication (eg, from 20mg to 10mg), double click on 20mg in the Strength column, or right click on 20mg.

An alternative strength dialogue box will appear — simply double click on 10mg.

The same applies to other changes, such as the quantity or the number of repeats. Double click on the number in the Quantity or Repeats column. This will take you to the Drug Quantity and Repeats dialogue box. Simply overtype with the correct number.

An often overlooked feature of medical software is that any changes you make are reflected in the progress notes (see image below).



Change drug strength using the pull-down menu.

Further information at www.nevdgp.org.au

