contacting a pharmacist. The appropriate action to take if a person supported is having an adverse reaction is to contact doctors/hospital so they can be treated appropriately.

2.4 Explain the different routes of medicine administration.

Different routes of medicine administration are:

- Inhalation – medication for when you have, respiratory conditions. Inhalers and nebulisers are used to deliver the medication directly in to the lungs.
- Oral – These are medications that you take via the mouth. They commonly come in the form of tablets, capsules, liquids, syrups and suspensions. Some oral medication is sublingual, which are tablets that are placed under the tongue to dissolve quickly.
- Instillation – This form of medication comes in drops or ointments and can be used via the eyes, nose and ears. Drops are for ears and eyes infections. Nose spray or ointment are used for hayfever or infections.
- Transdermal – This medication comes in patches these are applied to the skin normally to the upper arm or the chest. The medication releases slowly and is then absorbed through the skin, such as nicotine patches or Hormone replacement therapy (HRT).
- Topical – This comes in the form of creams and gels. They are used on the skin surface to treat skin conditions.

The medication routes below can only be administration by a Doctor or trained nurse.

- Intravenous – This medication enters into the veins and is absorbed quickly.
- Rectal/Vaginal – This medication is absorbed very quickly. Suppositories are given in to the rectum and Pessaries are given in to the vagina.
- Subcutaneous – This medication is injected through a needle just beneath the skin.
- Intramuscular – This medication is injected through a needle directly into the large muscles in the body normally the top of the leg or the bottom.

3.1 Explain the uses, purpose and function of materials and equipment needed for the administration of medications via different routes.

Equipment needed for administration of medication via different routes may include: a medicine trolley, medicine pots, spoons, syringes, nebulisers, containers, wipes, drinking glasses, a water jug, a disposal bag, and medication administration record sheets/charts (MAR charts). Gloves must also be worn and hands washed before and after medication administration. Company policies and procedures must also be followed.

For those with respiratory difficulties, inhalers are used and the dose can be either administered by the individual when they breathe in or set automatically to activate when the individual breathes in, which is measured by the doctor when they prescribe it. Nebulisers can also be used and work differently; a liquid is placed into a chamber at the base of a mask, a fine mist of the medication is released into the mask and the individual inhales. You must make sure that you enter this on the individual’s medication administration record sheets/charts and sign it to say it has been administered.

Oral medication is taken via the mouth commonly in the form of tablets, using a non-touch technique. These should be administered direct from the MDS system, if being used, which is tablets and capsules only contained in blister packs. Plastic medication cups can be used to help administer them. Some tablets must not be crushed as this can change how the medication works. You must make sure that you enter this on the individual’s medication administration record sheets/charts and sign it to say it has been administered.