This chapter has provided a critical review of literature and contextualised this study in relation to what is known about the regulation, education, practice and experiences of RNs who administer medications. After defining medication administration processes, practices and guiding frameworks, the chapter reviewed literature from the domains of professional nursing regulations, education and practice regarding medication administration and highlighted the complexity of contemporary medication administration. The rights framework was noted as the standard approach to guiding and measuring nursing education and practice in relation to medication administration. **Variances were uncovered as significant factors that confound medication administration research.** Understanding the role of these rights in safe medication administration practice is fundamental to this study. **Despite their centrality as a guidance structure to medication administration, the empirical basis of the five rights has eluded all searches undertaken in this review.** This review demonstrates the medication error focus taken in most studies and provides background for the decision to take a strengths-based perspective in this study. **It raises questions about the focus and scope of current medication administration research, and, most significantly, highlights the paucity of research concerning medication administration strengths in nursing practice.** Contextualising this study to the literature in this way provides a position from which to view the findings and conclusions discussed in Chapters 5, 6 and 7.

(Adapted from UNE thesis, Martyn, 2016, An appreciative inquiry into medication administration by registered nurses: The untold story, p. 69)