Standards, Intents, and Measurable Elements

Organization and Management

Standard MMU.01.00

The hospital manages its medication management processes.

Intent of MMU.01.00

Medications are an important resource in patient care, and medication management must be organized effectively and efficiently. A safe medication management system addresses an organization's medication processes and is not only the responsibility of the pharmaceutical service but also of managers and health care practitioners, nurses, and other clinicians. How this responsibility is shared depends on the hospital's structure and staffing. In hospitals where a pharmacy is not present, medications may be managed on each clinical unit according to hospital policy. In other cases when a large central pharmacy is present, the pharmacy may organize and control medications throughout the hospital. Effective medication management includes all parts of the hospital—inpatient, outpatient, specialized units, and other clinical areas where medications are used or stored.

A qualified individual must directly supervise the pharmacy or pharmaceutical service's activities, regardless of how medication management is organized within the hospital. The individual is trained and, if required, appropriately licensed and/or certified. Applicable laws and regulations are incorporated into the organizational structure and the operations of the medication management system used in the hospital. This individual, or another qualified individual, is responsible for overseeing the medication management interdisciplinary team established to develop the policies and processes for medication management practices in the hospital. Additional responsibilities of the medication management team include medication oversight, decision-making, inventory management, preparation and distribution, and medication safety and quality, including diversion, adverse events, and reporting,

To ensure efficient and effective medication management and use, the hospital conducts a systems review at least once a year. The annual review identifies how well the system is working and allows hospitals to understand the need and priority of continued system improvements in quality and safety of medication use.

Measurable Elements of MMU.01.00

1. A qualified individual oversees the medication management interdisciplinary team established to develop the policies and processes for medication management in the hospital. (*See also* GLD.06.00, ME 1; HRP.02.01, ME 2)
2. Ⓓ The medication management interdisciplinary team develops written policies and a plan for a uniform medication management system that complies with applicable laws and regulations and includes the following processes, as applicable:
   - Planning
   - Selection and procurement
   - Storage
   - Ordering
   - Preparing, dispensing, and distribution
   - Administration
   - Monitoring the effects of medication
   - Medication error and adverse event reporting
   - Evaluation
   - Formal processes for management of medication shortages and substitutions
3. Ⓓ The medication management interdisciplinary team is defined in writing and includes, at minimum, a pharmacist, a physician, a nurse, an infection prevention and control professional, and hospital leaders.
4. All settings, services, and individuals who manage medication processes are included in the organizational structure.
5. A licensed pharmacist or other qualified individual directly supervises the activities of the pharmacy or pharmaceutical service and ensures compliance with applicable laws and regulations. (*See also* GLD.06.00, ME 1)
6. Ⓓ The hospital documents at least one review annually of the medication management system.
7. Appropriate and updated sources of drug information are readily available to those involved in medication use.

Standard MMU.01.01

The hospital implements a program for the prudent use of antimicrobials based on the principle of antimicrobial stewardship.

Intent of MMU.01.01

Hospitals must implement processes to ensure optimal use of antimicrobials in order to prevent the development and spread of resistant bacteria and deliver better patient outcomes. The overuse and misuse of antimicrobials has resulted in the growth of multidrug-resistant microorganisms that are increasingly resistant to available antimicrobials. Antimicrobial resistance has been classified as an urgent public health and socioeconomic problem on a global scale. What is more, antimicrobial resistance has been estimated to have been responsible for the deaths of at least of 1.27 million people worldwide and associated with nearly 5 million deaths in 2019, and in 2022 was listed as one of the top 10 global health threats. In addition to the growth of multidrug-resistant microorganisms, there are often side effects and/or complications to antimicrobial treatment, including acquiring *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. diff*), kidney or liver damage, hearing loss, hemolytic anemia, and other such complications. The proper use of antimicrobials is important in the prevention of unnecessary complications due to improper antimicrobial use.