



Whenever standard therapeutic modalities are tried and failed or when there is no established treatment for a medical illness, the need may arise to try an investigational agent or an approved formulary drug for un-approved indication (Off-label). The ethics committee as well as the pharmacy and therapeutics committee could allow such practice by developing policies and procedures. Clear justification of drug need, dose, duration, and route of administration, therapeutic and toxic monitoring parameters must be clearly documented and approved by the prescriber and department head. Approval of such treatment must be limited to one individual patient at a time. Close monitoring and outcome reporting must be made by the treating physician to the concerned committees.

MM.25 The hospital has a system for reviewing the appropriateness of medication orders before medication is dispensed.

MM.25.1 The hospital maintains an updated and complete medication profile (electronic or paper record) for each patient in the pharmaceutical care department.

MM.25.2 A trained pharmacist reviews all medication orders or prescriptions before dispensing (except in emergencies, lifesaving situations, or diagnostic imaging where the prescriber is physically present).

MM.25.3 All medication orders are reviewed for:

 MM.25.3.1 Patient's allergies or sensitivities.

 MM.25.3.2 Approved indications for use.

 MM.25.3.3 Therapeutic duplications.

 MM.25.3.4 Existing or potential interactions (drug-drug and drug-food interactions).

 MM.25.3.5 Appropriateness of the medication dose, frequency, and route of administration.

 MM.25.3.6 Contraindications.

MM.25.4 All issues, concerns, or questions regarding medication order or prescription are clarified with the prescriber and documented before medication dispensing.

Standard Intent:

Patients are prescribed different medications at different times during their hospital stay. Maintaining and updating the drug profile allows pharmacy to monitor for drug allergy, indications, dosing, and route of administration, therapeutic duplication, drug interactions, adverse drug reactions and contraindications.

Allergy to prescribed medication constitutes a major patient safety issue. It is the responsibility of admitting physician to take drug history for any known allergies and communicate it in writing to the pharmacy. Pharmacy should not dispense any