
Standard Intent:

People can be harmed if they take out-of-date or damaged pharmaceuticals. Proper storage of pharmaceuticals is extremely important from the time it is received in the hospital until it reaches the patient. The loss of potency during storage may influence the efficacy and safety of pharmaceuticals. Proper environmental control (i.e., proper temperature, light, and humidity, conditions of sanitation, ventilation, and segregation) must be maintained wherever drugs and supplies are stored anywhere in the hospital. Proper labeling and storage in a way to avoid mixing is very crucial for medication safety especially for look-alike and sound-alike pharmaceuticals. Medication security addresses keeping medication in a storage area such that unauthorized personnel are prevented from obtaining access to the medication. Routine inspection of drug storage areas by qualified pharmacy staff is indicated to ensure compliance with given standards. The objectives of drug storage shall be to ensure stock security and the maintenance of the quality of drugs throughout their shelf life.

MM.12 The hospital has a safe and secure system for storage of refrigerated and frozen medications, biologicals, and vaccines in stores, pharmacies, and patient care areas.

- MM.12.1 There is a policy and procedure on proper storage and control of refrigerated and frozen medications from the point of receipt until the point of administration.
- MM.12.2 There are medication refrigerators and freezers for storing refrigerated and frozen medications, biologicals and vaccines.
- MM.12.3 All medication refrigerators and freezers are equipped with appropriate thermometers or equivalent device for temperature recording.
- MM.12.4 The refrigerators' temperature is checked and documented at least once daily on the temperature log sheet.
- MM.12.5 The refrigerator's temperature is kept between (2-8°C).
- MM.12.6 The freezer's temperature is kept between (-10 and -25°C).
- MM.12.7 All vaccine refrigerators are connected to emergency power source and electric outlets are marked accordingly.
- MM.12.8 Vaccine refrigerator's temperature is continuously recorded around the clock or an equivalent process is in place to monitor temperature around the clock.
- MM.12.9 Temperature records are kept for at least three years.
- MM.12.10 There is a clear and defined mechanism to deal with electric power outage or out-of-range temperature of the medication refrigerators and freezers to ensure the integrity of the affected medications before its reuse.
- MM.12.11 Food, drinks, biological samples, and culture media are not allowed inside any medication refrigerator or freezer.