

Floor stock may include simple pharmaceuticals that do not require immediate and intensive pharmacy intervention such as plain intravenous fluids such as normal saline and dextrose 5% water. Concentrated electrolytes pose a fatal threat to patients. When they are available on a patient care unit, it is far too easy for someone to accidentally administer the concentrated material without first diluting it in solution, especially during an emergency. Concentrated electrolytes shall not be allowed in patient care units unless absolutely necessary to have it in certain nursing units while the pharmacy is closed. In such case all necessary precautions should be taken to prevent serious medication errors secondary to its use. Several reports of medication errors have been linked to floor stock pharmaceuticals. Floor stock pharmaceuticals should not be considered a replacement of pharmacy services.

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**MM.17 There is a system to identify all medications brought into the hospital by patients or their families.**

- MM.17.1 The hospital implements a multidisciplinary policy and procedure on handling medications brought into the hospital by patients or their families (patient's own medications).
- MM.17.2 Patient's own medications are checked for integrity and properly labeled if permitted for use, by a qualified pharmacist.
- MM.17.3 There is proper documentation of patient's own medications in the medical record (ordering, dispensing, and administration records).
- MM.17.4 When patient's own medication is not permitted, both patient and prescriber are informed.

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**Standard Intent:**

The medications prescribed for and administered to patients while they are hospitalized are typically provided by the hospital's pharmaceutical care department. However, there are times when it may be necessary for a patient to bring his or her own medications into the hospital to take accurate medication reconciliation. Since the integrity and quality of medications brought from home can't always be guaranteed, it is generally discouraged to utilize such stock during hospital stay. In rare occasion, the prescribed drug may not be on the hospital's formulary and the hospital has no therapeutic alternative, the patients' personal medications may be used to avoid an interruption in therapy. In such case, a qualified pharmacist must evaluate quality and integrity of patient own medication before being approved for use and both patient and treating physician should be informed. All unused (not prescribed) patient's own medications shall be returned to the patient family or kept in the pharmacy until the time of patient discharge. Proper storage condition has direct effect of safety and efficacy of medications.