



MM.37.3 Medications are administered in the prescribed dose and by the correct route.

MM.37.4 Medications are administered at the correct time (the approved hospital standard administration time).

MM.37.5 Medications are administered after verifying the expiry date.

MM.37.6 Medications are administered after visual inspection for discoloration, particulate, or other clues of loss of integrity or instability.

MM.37.7 Medications are administered after verifying that there are no contraindications.

Standard Intent:

All drug orders should be verified before medication administration. Nurses should carefully review original medication orders before administration of the first dose and compare them with medications dispensed. Transcriptions of orders should be avoided to the extent possible and should be recognized as prime opportunities for errors.

Doses should not be administered unless the meaning of the original order is clear and unambiguous and there are no questions with respect to the correctness of the prescribed regimen. Nurses should check the drug identity, dose, route, and integrity (e.g., expiration date and general appearance) of the medications dispensed before administering them. When there are discrepancies, the nurse should contact the pharmacy department and determine the appropriate action. Patient identity should be verified before the administration of each prescribed dose. Nurses should make sure that there are no contraindications before administering the prescribed medication.

MM.38 The hospital has a safe system for self-administration of medications.

MM.38.1 The hospital educates patients and families involved in self-administration of medications about:

MM.38.1.1 Medication name, type, and indication.

MM.38.1.2 Time, frequency, route, and dose of medication.

MM.38.1.3 Expected medication effect and potential side effects.

MM.38.1.4 Monitoring and reporting of medication effects.

MM.38.2 The hospital does not allow administration of any medication brought from outside the hospital unless prescribed by the treating physician.

MM.38.3 The hospital does not allow administration of free medical samples.

Standard Intent:

Some hospitals have developed patient self-administration program as an alternative medication administration method for selected patients. The self-administration of medication by patients in the hospital offers many advantages. It allows patients to assume more responsibility for their direct care, to learn how to use medication