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properly, and to be able to anticipate potential side effects and other medication-related problems. Healthcare providers must educate patients and families on the safe and proper use of medications. Patients should be encouraged and taught how to report medication errors and near misses that occur as a result of self-administration.

Hospital that allow a patient to self-administer specific medications must have policies and procedures in place that address several issues. One of these issues is assessment of the patient's capacity to self-administer the medications. Patients with stable medication regimens, receiving chronic medications, and good physical and mental health are appropriate candidates for self-administration. Another issue is the security of those medications. Yet another issue is documentation in the medical record of each instance of medication administration by the patient. Nursing should make round to ensure that patients are using their medication appropriately.

Free medical samples of newly manufactured pharmaceuticals are designed for advertisement and not meant for clinical use therefore, free medical samples should not be used in hospitals.

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#### **MM.39 The hospital has a system to monitor the patient response to medications.**

MM.39.1 There is a multidisciplinary policy and procedure on monitoring the patient response to medications.

MM.39.2 There is an annually updated list of all formulary medications that cause changes in the patient's equilibrium and may raise the risk of falls.

MM.39.3 The hospital has a collaborative process, involving physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, to monitor the patient's response to medications.

MM.39.4 Monitoring includes the following:

MM.39.4.1 The medication's effect on patient's clinical condition, as well as blood count, liver and renal functions and other relevant therapeutic monitoring parameters.

MM.39.4.2 The patient's perception of side effects to the first dose of a new medication.

MM.39.4.3 Unanticipated drug-drug interactions.

MM.39.4.4 Changes in the patient's equilibrium that may raise the risk of falls

MM.39.4.5 Allergic reactions including documentation and flagging of medical records.

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#### **Standard Intent:**

Monitoring activities are primarily the responsibility of the physician. However, observation and reporting are required from the person who administered the