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**Standard Intent:**

When emergency arise, the immediate availability and accessibility of emergency medications becomes very crucial. The hospital should have a process to secure such medications from theft or loss. Medication-loaded crash carts and emergency medical bags are commonly used in hospital setting. Hospitals are expected to ensure availability and security of adequate and valid supply of all emergency medications. Collaboration between nursing and pharmacy is strongly recommended to monitor emergency medication and replenish them in timely fashion after being consumed. The use of tamper-evident plastic seals allows for quick access to the contents of a crash cart or emergency medical bag as they can be easily broken by hand.

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**MM.16 The hospital has a safe and secure system for managing medications in the patient care areas.**

- MM.16.1 The hospital implements a multidisciplinary policy and procedure on medications assignment as floor stocks in limited quantities according to the needs of each service unit.
- MM.16.2 Anesthesia reversal agents are available in operating rooms and areas where moderate or deep sedation is performed.
- MM.16.3 Oxytocics are available in the labor and delivery unit.
- MM.16.4 Benzodiazepine and narcotics antagonists are available in all patient care areas where benzodiazepines and narcotics are stocked.
- MM.16.5 All medications in the patient care areas are well separated and properly labeled.
- MM.16.6 Concentrated electrolytes are not allowed in patient care areas (unless patient safety necessitates their immediate use). All necessary precautions and separate locked cabinet with proper signage are in place to prevent inadvertent administration of concentrated electrolytes.

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**Standard Intent:**

In addition to emergency medication, patient care units in different areas of the hospital should keep limited stock of urgent medications such as anesthesia reversal agents in areas where anesthesia is administered; STAT doses of benzodiazepine and narcotics anti-dotes where benzodiazepine and narcotics are stocked and used; STAT doses of pain killers or antispasmodics or anti-emetics where waiting for pharmacy dispensing would have negative impact on patient management. Cytotoxics should be stocked in labor and delivery units. To prevent medication errors, adult doses should not be stocked in pediatric units as much as possible.