

- MM.31.2 The hospital dispenses medications in the most ready-to-administer form possible (such as repackaged unit-doses) to minimize chance of error during distribution or administration.
 - MM.31.3 The hospital dispenses quantities of medications consistent with patient needs.
 - MM.31.4 The hospital dispenses no more than twenty-four hours supply of medications for inpatient at a time except for bulk oral liquids and topical preparations.
 - MM.31.5 The hospital dispenses medications with time frames defined by the hospital (such as STAT, now, routine).
 - MM.31.6 The hospital maintains records for all dispensed medications.
 - MM.31.7 There is implementation of the independent double check during preparation and before dispensing of all high-alert medications.
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Standard Intent:

To improve drug safety and minimize opportunities for medication errors, work environment must represent the most comfortable zone for professional service. Documentation of each step in dispensing medication is crucial in identifying what went wrong and how to be fixed. 24 hours supply of unit-dose medication ensures that the right medication in the right dose has been delivered to the right patient. Close monitoring via daily review of patient drug profile and medication administration record guarantee compliance with therapeutic regimen of the treating physician. In order to prevent dispensing errors, pharmacist must dispense medications against physician order and independent double checking before dispensing is necessary for high alert medication. New order, reorder, change order or cancellation of order must be communicated to pharmacy. Orders transcribed by nurses are not acceptable except for verbal/telephone orders.

To meet the urgent needs for medications, the Pharmacy director should develop a mechanism to ensure that Stat orders are easily identified and medications dispensed to patient care area within 30 minutes. Patients are prescribed different medications at different times during their hospital stay. Maintaining and updating the drug profile allows pharmacy to monitor for drug allergy, indications, dosing, therapeutic duplication, drug interactions and adverse drug reactions.

MM.32 The hospital has a system for labeling medications.

- MM.32.1 Medications prepared but not intended for immediate administration are labeled. This includes all injectable medications drawn into syringes or mixed with intravenous fluids for use inside the operating rooms or procedure areas.
- MM.32.2 Multiple medications for a single patient, such as those in the operating room or emergency room, must be labeled for drug name and dose/concentration.