



OSPITAL NG PARANAQUE



Document Code: OSPAR-ADS-PHARMA-012

ANCILLARY DIVISION APPROVAL MATRIX

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Policy Title:
POLICY ON MEDICATIONS BROUGHT TO THE HOSPITAL BY THE PATIENT

Section / Department
PHARMACY SECTION

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CLASSIFICATION: COMPREHENSIVE

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide safe and effective administration of drugs brought into the hospital by a patient.
- To provide for patient safety, continuity of care and appropriate patient billing in circumstances when the patient brings his or her own medications to the Hospital.

COVERAGE:

This policy applies to all employees, Medical Staff members, patients and visitors regardless of service location or category of patient.

RESPONSIBILITY:

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Pharmacy Section to assure that all individuals adhere to the stipulations/directives of this policy, that these procedures are implemented and followed at the Hospital.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Pharmacist to report instances of non-compliance with this policy to the Chief of Clinics.

POLICY:

If a patient is admitted to the Hospital and brings his or her own medications, the nurse should encourage the patient to send the medications home with a patient representative. If the medications cannot be sent home, the Hospital shall store the drugs in accordance with this policy.

Further, medications brought into the Hospital by a patient will not be administered to the patient except in accordance with this policy.

For purposes of this policy, the term “medications” applies to all drugs, including prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs, herbal remedies and botanical products.

Use of a patient’s own medications may only be approved for use if a medication or similar drug with same efficacy is not available through the pharmacy or the drugs are



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part of a clinical study that if not given would jeopardize the patient's medical care and/or his/her ability to continue to participate in the clinical research study.

The Pharmacy may not dispense, nor may a nurse or other Hospital employee be involved with the administration and storage of, any herbal or complementary medications or any other medication that is not approved by the FDA. The lack of assurance that such drug meets FDA requirements for safety, and has the identity, strength, quality and purity characteristics that it is represented to possess, and does not pose a risk of drug interactions among medications, herbals, and other complementary medications not approved by the FDA, makes administration of such drugs a true patient safety issue.

Medications brought in while being treated as an outpatient will remain in the custody of the patient or patient's family and will NOT be administered to the patient by Hospital staff while being treated as an outpatient.

PROCEDURE:

Use of Medications Brought to the Hospital by the Patient:

1. If the Pharmacy is unable to procure a prescribed medication for the patient, or if in the judgment of the patient's physician, the patient may use the FDA-approved medications he/she brought to the Hospital, the following steps shall be taken:
 - a. In circumstances where the Hospital is unable to procure the medication, the pharmacist through the attending nurse shall notify the patient's physician of the unavailability of the drug.
 - b. If the physician determines that there is no acceptable alternative to the prescribed medication, or if the physician determines other circumstances warrant the use of the patient's own medication, the physician may order the use of the drug.
 - c. Prior to the administration of the drug brought by the patient, if the administering nurse finds the drug suspicious (not properly labeled, presence of scratches on the container, etc.) ,the Hospital Pharmacy



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d. should check first the drug. The pharmacist on duty shall take the following steps:

- (1) Examine the drug container (vial, ampule) to confirm the drug is clearly and properly labeled.
- (2) Examine the content for any change in physical appearance (discoloration, presence of undissolved particles)
- (3) Confirm the identity of the contents of the medication container and that such medication has not expired.
- (4) The pharmacist will affix a sticker to the ampule/vial that has been verified and include his/her initials and date, and keep a record of the drug.

Note: The physical appearance of the drug once checked and verified does not guarantee the safety and efficacy of the active content of the medication.

- e. If the medications brought to the hospital are procured/ purchased from reputable and FDA licensed drugstores and proof of purchased was presented.
2. If the patient's own medicines are being used, the pharmacist will ensure that neither the patient nor any payer shall be billed for the medications.