

IF11: UNAVAILABLE MEDICATIONS

Policy

Medications used by residents in the nursing facility may be unavailable for dispensing from the pharmacy on occasion. **This situation may occur be due a drug recall, temporary manufacturer's shortage of an ingredient, or permanent drug recall.** The facility must make every effort to ensure that medications are available to meet the needs of each resident.

Procedures

- A. The pharmacy staff shall:
 - 1) Call or notify nursing staff that the ordered product(s) is/are unavailable.
 - 2) Notify nursing when it is anticipated that the drug(s) will become available.
 - 3) Suggest alternative, comparable drug(s) and dosage of drug(s) that is/are available, which is covered by the resident's insurance.

- B. Nursing staff shall:
 - 1) Notify the attending physician of the situation and explain the circumstances, expected availability and optional therapy(ies) that are available.
 - a. If the facility nurse is unable to obtain a response from the attending physician, the nurse should notify the nursing supervisor and contact the Facility Medical Director for orders and/or direction.
 - 2) Obtain a new order and cancel/discontinue the order for the non-available medication.
 - 3) Notify the pharmacy of the replacement order.