

IF5: MEDICATIONS BROUGHT TO THE FACILITY BY PHYSICIANS OR RESIDENTS/FAMILY MEMBERS

Policy

All medication supplies dispensed by a physician or brought in by the resident or family member are labeled, packaged and stored in accordance with product requirements, state and/or federal regulations and facility policies. These medications will only be accepted if there is a current order and if medications are permitted by state and federal law. Medications brought into the facility by physicians or resident family members are reported to the provider pharmacy and added to the resident profile to maintain a complete and accurate drug profile.

Procedures

A. Medication Samples

The FDA provides direction for the lawful use of medication samples. The following guidelines should be followed:

- 1) A physician may dispense medication samples to a patient for the purpose of providing an immediate medication supply when it is not feasible or practical to have a prescription filled.
 - a. The issued supply must not exceed the quantity necessary until such time a prescription can be filled.
 - b. The issuing physician maintains written records of accountability for all samples issued.
- 2) **Due to the above guidelines, the use of samples in the nursing facility is discouraged. Some states do not allow the use of sample medications in nursing facilities.**

B. Physician Emergency/Extender Kit

- 1) Some facilities purchase emergency kit or starter dose kit medications using their Medical Director's DEA registration or via a registrant who is the employee of the facility. When medically necessary medications are not available, such medications may be accessed by an authorized nurse upon a medication order by a physician.
- 2) When medications are provided in physician-dispensed medication containers, containers should be labeled appropriately according to state and federal requirements.
- 3) Physician-dispensed medications are stored, documented, and accounted for in accordance with facility policies and procedures for medications.
- 4) The issuing physician maintains written records of accountability for all medications received and dispensed.

C. Dispensed Medications from a Physician Outside of the Facility

- 1) It is not uncommon when a resident has surgery or another procedure outside of the facility for the resident to return with medications issued by a physician at the hospital or clinic. These medications can be administered only if labeled appropriately according to state and federal requirements.
- 2) The attending physician must approve the use of the medication supply and write an order for the medication.
- 3) If approved and ordered, the nurse may write the name of the resident on the medication label and list the order on the medication administration record.
- 4) Some states require that a licensed professional or pharmacist identify medications brought into the facility by a resident or responsible party before administration.

D. The Facility does not accept imported medications brought into the facility by a resident or family member.