

IC7: DRUG INFORMATION

Policy

The licensed nursing and medical staff have access to reference materials that include current information on medication effects, cautions, available strengths, dosage forms, recommended doses, and nomenclature.

Procedures

- A. The consultant pharmacist identifies one or more current medication references to help staff in the identification of medications and information on contraindications, side effects and/or adverse effects, dosage levels and other pertinent information. The Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee or similar committee selects one or more references from the list for the facility to purchase.
- B. A current edition of text or electronic reference(s) is available at each nursing station. A general pharmacology text is available to the nursing staff and kept in the director of nursing's office. If intravenous (IV) solutions are administered in the facility, a reference relating to IV medication administration is readily available to nursing personnel.
- C. Manufacturer information on the container's label is not covered unless the medication is dispensed as a prescription. In such cases, the MAC Rx label supersedes manufacturer directions.
- D. When information about a medication is not available, the charge nurse requests it from MAC RX or the consultant pharmacist.
- E. Package literature obtained from MAC Rx is kept at the nursing station with other medication information.
- F. Reference materials or the pharmacist are consulted before administering an unfamiliar medication.
- G. Patient package inserts, when provided, are reviewed with the resident or responsible party by nursing staff and placed in the resident's medical record.
- H. The responsible party is given patient appropriate information for discharge/take-home medication.
- I. User's manuals or other references related to medication administration devices and equipment used in the facility are available to nursing personnel.