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IC10: MEDICATION LABELS

Policy

Medications are labeled in accordance with facility requirements and state and federal laws. Only the dispensing pharmacy/registered pharmacist can modify, change, or attach prescription labels.

Procedures

- A. Labels are permanently affixed to the outside of the prescription container. No medication is accepted with the label inserted into a vial. If a label does not fit directly onto the product, e.g., eye drops, the label may be affixed to an outside container or carton, but the resident's name, at least, must be maintained directly on the actual product container.
- B. Each prescription medication label or package includes:
 - 1) Resident's name.
 - 2) Specific directions for use, including route of administration.
 - a. Due to the complexity and length/amount of instructions, some medications may be labeled "use as directed" and refer the person administering the medication to the medication administration record for instruction details.
 - 3) Medication name.
 - a. Non-innovator multiple-source drug products dispensed in place of innovator brand products are labeled with the non-innovator multiple source drug product (generic) name and the manufacturer's name or an acceptable abbreviation. (Some states require the letters IC (stands for interchange) be placed on the label to indicate that an interchange has occurred.)
 - 4) Strength of medication.
 - a. Injectables and Liquids: strength per mL and the amount to be given in milliliter (mL) equivalents on the label.
 - b. Example: When furosemide 40 mg is ordered and the pharmacy supplies it in an ampule containing 40 mg/mL, the directions read *"Inject 40 mg (1 mL)."*
 - 5) Prescriber's name.
 - 6) Date dispensed.
 - 7) Quantity of medication.
 - 8) "Beyond use" (or expiration) date of medication on the package.
 - 9) Name, address, and telephone number of dispensing pharmacy.
 - 10) DEA number of dispensing pharmacy, if required.
 - 11) Prescription number.
 - 12) Auxiliary labels indicating storage requirements and special procedures.
Example: "Shake well" "Take on empty stomach, one hour before or 2

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hours after meals.”

- 13) Container number and total number of containers (e.g., 1 of 3, 2 of 3, 3 of 3) when multiple containers are dispensed for one prescription/order.
 - 14) Initials or ID number of dispensing pharmacist.
 - 15) Lot number of medication dispensed (if necessary).
- C. Each infusion therapy product label contains the following information:
- 1) Name and volume of solution.
 - 2) Resident’s name.
 - 3) Infusion rate.
 - 4) Name and quantity of each additive.
 - 5) Date of preparation.
 - 6) Initials of compounder.
 - 7) Date and time of administration.
 - 8) Initials of person administering medication if different from compounder.
 - 9) Date after which the mixture must not be used.
- D. Labels on controlled substances should indicate that the medication is a controlled substance, – usually noted as a large red “C.”**
- E. Improperly or inaccurately labeled medications are rejected and returned to the dispensing pharmacy.
- F. Resident-specific nonprescription medications (not floor stock) that are not labeled by the pharmacy are kept in the manufacturer’s original container and identified with the resident’s name. Facility personnel may write the resident’s name on the container or label as long as the required information listed above (see B.) is not covered. (See also IC8: HOUSE SUPPLIED (FLOOR STOCK) MEDICATIONS)
- G. **Medication labels are not altered, modified, or marked in any way by nursing personnel.** Contents are not transferred from one container to another. Under no circumstances are unattached labels requested or accepted from the pharmacy. Only the pharmacy/registered pharmacist may place a label on the medication container.
- 1) If the physician’s directions for use change or the label is inaccurate, the nurse may place a **“CHECK MED SHEET”** label or the like, on the container indicating there is a change in directions for use, taking care not to cover important label information.
 - 2) When such a label appears on the container, the medication nurse checks the resident’s medication administration record (MAR) or the physician’s order for current information.
 - 3) The dispensing pharmacy is informed prior to the next refill of the prescription so the new container will contain an accurate label.
- H. Medications dispensed by physicians must conform to the above labeling requirements.
- I. If the pharmacy or a dispensing physician labels a medication incorrectly, a

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medication discrepancy report should be completed. (See IF6: DRUG PROBLEM DEFECT REPORTING, See FORMS: MEDICATION ERROR REPORT)

- J. Floor stock medications may be labeled as "floor stock" or "house supply" and kept in the original manufacturer's container. (See IC8: HOUSE SUPPLIED/FLOOR STOCK MEDICATIONS) The manufacturer's or pharmacy's label should include the following:
- 1) Medication name
 - 2) Medication strength
 - 3) Quantity
 - 4) Accessory/auxiliary instructions
 - 5) Lot number
 - 6) Expiration date
 - 7) Manufacturer and/or distributor
- K. When medication is ordered for use at the bedside, the medication label contains, in addition to the instructions for use, a notation that it may be self-administered and stored at the bedside. (See ID3: BEDSIDE MEDICATION STORAGE and IIA10 SELF- ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS)
- L. Where applicable: Labels from automated dispensing units placed in the facility must comply with State Board of Pharmacy requirements. At a minimum, the package labeling from automated devices must contain the following:
- 1) Name of the resident
 - 2) Name of medication as ordered
 - 3) Expiration date