



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE



Medication Management Standards

The Joint Commission Recommendations





Medication Storage

- Medication carts (incl. code carts) to be in locked room or in view of nursing station
- Medications can not be accessible to public/visitors (room left unlocked)
- Medications must be labeled with expiration date
- Date on label must be the last date the product is to be used – can not be the date opened
 - Multi-dose injectable vials are only used once except for vaccines



Medication Storage

- Medications stored in patient care areas are in the most ready-to-administer forms commercially available or repackaged by the pharmacy.
- Expired drugs removed
 - Expiration of 1Aug/2013 (Aug. 1st, 2013)
 - Expiration Aug/2013(end of Aug)
- Staff use clean or sterile techniques and maintain clean, uncluttered, and functionally separate areas dedicated solely for IV product preparation (procedural rooms and nursing units)



Beyond Use Date

- For sterile injectable multi-dose vials, the Joint Commission requires a revised expiration date of 28 days from the date of opening or puncture except when:
 - Original expiration date is shorter
 - Where manufacturer specifies otherwise in the package insert
 - Vaccines



Multiple PRN Medications

- Clear guidelines are necessary for multiple PRN medications when each is to be selected over another (determined by the LIP who writes the order)
 - Multiple pain medications
 - Multiple antiemetics
 - Multiple antihistamines for itching/hives
 - Multiple benzodiazepines for anxiety



Labeling

- Medication containers are labeled whenever medications are prepared but not immediately administered
- In procedural setting, labeling occurs when any medication or solution is transferred from the original packaging to another container
 - Immediately before or after transfer
 - Labels include:
 - Medication name
 - Strength
 - Diluent and volume if not apparent from container
 - Expiration date when not used within 24 hours
 - Expiration time when expiration occurs in less than 24 hours
 - Note: the date and time are not necessary for short procedures



Medication Reconciliation

- Obtain information on the medications the patient is currently taking on admission to the hospital or an outpatient setting
- Include scheduled and PRN medications – including what the patient is taking and what the patient should be taking
- Provide the patient with written information on the medications the patient should be taking when discharged from the hospital or at the end of an outpatient encounter
 - Content: Importance of keeping medication information up-to-date and informing other providers of their medication list



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Discussion/Questions?

