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
    • Dilutent 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
Discussion/Questions?