

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL  
PHARMACY SERVICES**

SECTION: **INPATIENT PHARMACY SERVICES**

SUBJECT: **BEDSIDE MEDICATIONS**

CODE: 3.07.0

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POLICY

Only topical medications and inhalants qualify as bedside medications, which may be left at the patient's bedside only after specific criteria have been met. (Topical medications include ophthalmics, ear drops, nasal sprays, creams vaginal preparations, and ointments but excludes topical patches.) Specific criteria include physician orders, nursing patient training, patient demonstration of comprehension, and nursing observation of patient competence.

PROCEDURE

A. Criteria

1. Physician's order must specify that the topical and/or inhalant medication(s) may be left at bedside, name of medication, dosage strength of medication, directions for application and amount as designated on the patient label.
2. Nurse explains and documents procedure to patient, gives name of medication, how to apply, frequency, reason for administration and untoward effects.
3. Patient should demonstrate comprehension of instructions before topical and/or inhalant medication(s) are issued to him/her at bedside.
4. Nurse will observe and document a competent demonstration by patient.

B. Dispensing Format

1. Medications are issued in the smallest dispensable amount.
2. Each medication is individually labeled with the name of the patient, patient medical record number, name of drug and strength.
3. Medication is put in patient's bedside drawer, locker, or similar safe place specifically designated for that patient.

C. Control

Nurse checks the patient's supply every shift to be able to record for inventory control purposes on Medication Record.

D. Termination of Order

If medication is discontinued or patient discharged, return all patients' bedside medication to the Inpatient Pharmacy for proper disposal.

Also, refer to Nursing Clinical Policy and Procedure Manual.

Reviewed: 4/15/16ll, 11/20/2018bdk, 4/19/2022 TT

Approved By: 