



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER**

**SUBJECT: LABELING OF MEDICATIONS ON AND OFF THE STERILE FIELD IN POLICY NO. 399
PERIOPERATIVE AND OTHER PROCEDURAL SETTINGS**

CATEGORY: Provision of Care	EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/06
POLICY CONTACT: Dawna Willsey, RN	UPDATE/REVISION DATE: 9/21
REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE(S): OR Committee	

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for labeling medications, solutions and medication containers on and off the sterile field in perioperative and procedural settings (NPSG .03.04.0)

POLICY:

Label all medications, medication containers (e.g., syringes, medicine cups, basins) and other solutions on and off the sterile field in perioperative and other procedural settings. Labeling of solutions will include any chemicals and reagents such as formalin, saline, sterile water, Lugol's solution, radiopaque dyes, glutaraldehyde and chlorhexidine.

Note 1: Pre-labeling medication and solution containers is prohibited. Labeling is part of the medication preparation process and is done at the same time the medication/solution is prepared.

Note 2: Medications that are transferred from one container to another and used immediately do not need to be labeled, e.g. transfer of medication from a vial to a syringe for immediate administration. An immediately administered medication is one that an authorized staff member prepares or obtains, takes directly to a patient and administers to that patient without any break in the process.

DEFINITION:

For the purpose of this policy, a **medication** is defined as any prescription medication; sample medication; herbal remedies; vitamins; nutraceuticals; over-the-counter drugs, vaccines; diagnostic and contrast agents; radioactive medications; respiratory therapy treatments; parenteral nutrition; blood derivatives; intravenous solutions (plain, with electrolytes and/or drugs); and any product designated by the FDA as a drug.

PROCEDURE:

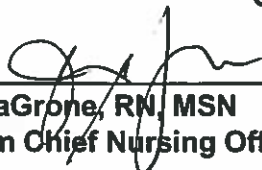
1. Label medications or solutions when transferring from the original packaging to another container even if only one medication is being used.
2. The label must include
 - the name of the medication or solution,
 - strength and amount (if not apparent from the container),

REVISED: 10/07, 4/11, 8/18, 9/21

REVIEWED: 10/07, 4/11, 8/14, 8/16/18, 9/18, 9/21

APPROVED BY: 
 Anish Mahajan, MD
 Chief Executive Officer


 Anish Mahajan, MD
 Chief Medical Officer


 Joy LaGrone, RN, MSN
 Interim Chief Nursing Officer



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- diluent name and volume (if not apparent from the container)
 - expiration date when not used within 24 hours, and
 - expiration time when expiration occurs in less than 24 hours.
3. Verify all labels verbally and visually by two qualified individuals when the person preparing the medication is not the person administering the medication.
 4. Label one medication or solution at a time as soon as it is prepared, unless it is immediately administered, e.g. if two drugs are being prepared for a procedure the first drug must be transferred and labeled before proceeding with the transfer and labeling of the second drug.
 5. Keep all original containers of medications or solutions for reference in the operative or procedure room of the patient until the conclusion of the procedure. Discard all containers at the conclusion of the procedure.
 6. Review all medications and solutions and their labels during change of shift or break relief by entering and exiting staff.
 7. Discard any unlabeled medication or solution.

Revised and Approved by:
Medical Executive Committee - 9/2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beverley A. Petrie".

Beverley A. Petrie, M.D.
President, Professional Staff Association