



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

SUBJECT: ADMITTED PATIENT’S OWN MEDICATION

POLICY NO. 325B

CATEGORY: Provision of Care	EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/14
POLICY CONTACT: Julianne Joo, PharmD	UPDATE/REVISION DATE: 2/23
REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE(S): Medication Safety Committee, Medical Executive	

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for the safe storage and, as appropriate, administration of patient supplied medications.

POLICY:

Personal medications brought to the hospital by patients are not to be administered unless all the specified criteria are met.

PROCEDURE:

1. Patient’s own medications brought into the hospital by patients should be returned to the patient’s family once the physician caring for the patient has reviewed these medications. The nurse will inform the patient:
 - a. To take only medications prescribed while in the hospital.
 - b. That personal medications are not allowed to be kept by the patient or at the bedside during the hospitalization.

2. Patients with no relatives or caregivers present may have their medications sent to the Pharmacy for safe storage and returned to the patient at the time of discharge.
 - a. The admitting nurse will:
 1. Fill out a Record of Valuables form (HH734-AD) attached to the “Valuables Bag”(Attachment I).
 2. Ensure patient’s information and the patient label on the “Valuables Bag” match.
 3. Check the box for “Other”, indicate the number of medication bottles placed in the bag, and write down “Medication(s)” for description. Do not specify the medication name and quantity for each.
 4. Medications are placed into the bag, with the nurse and patient jointly witnessing the sealing of the bag.
 5. The original white form is placed in the chart. The golden form will remain attached to the bag and will be sent to Basement Pharmacy (Room B-403).

REVISED: 1/14, 3/15, 6/17, 10/20, 10/22, 2/23

REVIEWED: 1/14, 3/15, 5/15, 6/17, 10/20, 10/22, 2/23

APPROVED BY: _____

Anish Mahajan, MD
Chief Executive Officer
Chief Medical Officer

Griselda Gutierrez, MD
Associate Chief Medical Officer

Jason Black, MBA, DNP, RN
Chief Nursing Officer



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- b. Upon receipt of the bag, the pharmacist will:
 - 1. Verify that patient’s information and the patient’s label on the “Valuables Bag” match.
 - 2. Enter an orderable for “Pick-Up Patient’s Own Medications from Pharmacy prior to DC” via PowerChart for each of the patient’s own medication bags received.
 - 3. Attending or provider listed under care team will be used to enter this orderable.
 - 4. “Per Protocol” will be selected as order communication type.
 - c. The pharmacist or pharmacy technician will log into the “Patient Own Medication” pharmacy log (date, patient’s name, FIN, record of valuables ID code).
 - d. The pink copy will be given to the patient and/or a representative as a receipt to obtain the medication upon discharge.
 - e. For retrieval of the bag, the patient and/or a representative will bring the pink copy and sign the pharmacy log that s/he picked up the medication bag.
 - f. Once the medication bag is picked up from the pharmacy, nurse will complete the “Pick-Up Patient’s Own Medications from Pharmacy prior to DC” task.
3. Medical marijuana—cannabis (federal law considers illegal with no acceptable medicinal value):
 - a. Do NOT include marijuana inside the bag with the medications from home.
 - b. Must be kept secured with other patient’s belongings (e.g., wallet, cash, etc.).
 4. Medications brought in by the patient shall be administered to the patient ONLY IF ALL of the following conditions are met:
 - a. The hospital pharmacy is unable to procure the medication (e.g., non-formulary awaiting approval or out of stock or delay in procurement).
 - b. There is a provider order to continue home medication.
 - c. The medication is FDA approved/marketed in the United States.
 - d. Pharmacist has successfully identified/verified the medication and strength; A “Patient’s Own Medication” sticker is affixed on the bottle to communicate with the team that the drug has been verified.
 5. Special circumstances:
 - a. For investigational drugs, the ordering physician shall be responsible for assessing the need for therapy continuation and verifying the drug (Refer to Pharmacy Policy 127).
 - b. Herbal preparations, drugs not FDA approved, and foreign drugs are NOT permitted.
 - c. Compounded products may be continued only after the Pharmacy Director or his/her designee has given approval for continuation. It is imperative to notify the pharmacy as soon as the patient is admitted, or staff become aware that the compound products/pump is being infused (e.g., patient own pump. Refer to Hospital Policy 329).
 6. For medications to be used during hospitalization, the pharmacist will verify and place a sticker (see below) on each medication.

PATIENT’S OWN MEDICATION

Patient Name: _____ Room _____

Medication: _____

Verified by: _____ RPh Date: _____

- a. Non-Controlled drugs shall be stored in the patient specific cassette.
- b. Controlled drugs shall be stored in unit Pyxis or servicing pharmacy.



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7. For patient's own pump medications, refer to Policy 329.
8. Medications not picked up by the patient or patient representative after seven days past hospital discharge will be discarded per policy (Refer to Policy 395).
9. If/when patient passes away, patient's own medication (s) may be returned to the pharmacy to be discarded.
 - a. Pharmacy personnel shall document the discard date on the "Patient's Own Medication" log and the pink copy of the "Valuables" form will be shredded.

Reviewed and approved by:
Medical Executive Committee 2/2023

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

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

