

## HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

<b>SUBJECT:</b> IV-117 LABELING MEDICATIONS AND SOLUTIONS ON AND OFF THE STERILE FIELD	<b>POLICY #:</b> 1195
	<b>VERSION:</b> 1
<b>APPROVED BY:</b> ASC Approvers	
<b>DATE APPROVED:</b> 06/28/2016	

**PURPOSE:** To ensure medications and solutions are identifiable after being removed from their original containers or packaging.

**POLICY:** Safe medication practices will be used when transferring, handling and administering medications or solutions on and off the sterile field.

### PROCEDURE:

1. All medications, medication containers (e.g. syringes, medicine cups, basins), and other solutions used in the operating room, both on and off the sterile field, must be labeled, even if only a single medication or solution is being used.
2. All vials and ampules must be cleaned with alcohol prior to use.
3. Aseptic technique will be used when transferring medications/solutions.
4. The Nurse (RN) circulator must check the expiration date and visually inspect the medication/solution for any indication that there has been a compromise during the storage process. If there is any question of compromise the item is not to be used.
5. Labeling occurs when any medication or solution is transferred from the original packaging to another container. There must be NO pre-labeling.
6. Only one medication or solution will be labeled at a time.
7. During the transfer of any medication to the sterile field, the RN circulator and the scrub nurse/technician will concurrently verify the medication name, strength, dose and expiration date. The RN circulator and the scrub nurse/technician shall verify medications on the sterile field both verbally and visually.
8. Immediately upon receipt of any medication/solution to the sterile field, the scrub nurse/technician, receiving the medication/solution, must label the medication/solution container. Labeling is to include the medication/solution name, strength, concentration, and amount (if not apparent from the container). All labels will be confirmed by both the RN circulator and the scrub nurse/technician.

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9. Verbal communication will occur when handing medication to the surgeon/physician for subsequent administration, even when only one medication is on the sterile field.
10. All medications/solutions will be verified with any relief personnel.
11. A syringe and needle will be used only once to administer medication to a single patient. When administering incremental dosages to a single patient from the same syringe is an integral part of the procedure, the same syringe and needle may be used with strict adherence to aseptic technique.
12. Any medications or solutions found unlabeled shall be immediately discarded in the pharmaceutical waste bin.
13. All original containers of medications or solutions shall remain available for reference in the OR until the conclusion of the surgery/procedure.
14. If a medication is removed from its original container and immediately administered to the patient, labeling does not need to occur.

### REFERENCE:

Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals

AORN Standards and Recommended Practices 2016

<b>Original Date:</b> 11/14/2007
<b>Reviewed:</b> 10/05/2017
<b>Next Review Date:</b> 10/05/2020
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