

VALLEYCARE
OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS
POLICY & PROCEDURE

NUMBER: 239
VERSION: 1

SUBJECT/TITLE: MEDICATION LABELING

POLICY: All medications, medication containers (e.g., syringes, medicine cups, basins), or other solutions, on and off the sterile field, in perioperative and other procedural settings must be labeled.

PURPOSE: To ensure medications are identifiable after they are removed from their original containers.

DEPARTMENTS: All

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE:

1. Medications and solutions, both on and off the sterile field*, must be labeled, even if only single medication is being used. *Note: Prepackaged sterile labels and pens are available on all patient care areas.
2. Labeling occurs when any medication or solution is transferred from the original packaging to another container.
3. Labels shall include drug name, strength, amount (if not apparent from the container), and expiration date (when not used within 24 hours).
4. Two licensed individuals shall verify all labels both verbally and visually when the person preparing the medication differs from the person administering the medication.
5. No more than one medication or solution shall be labeled at one time.
6. Any medications or solutions found unlabeled shall be immediately discarded into the pharmaceutical waste bin.
7. All original containers from medications or solutions shall remain available for reference in the perioperative/procedural area until the conclusion of the procedure. All labeled containers on the sterile field shall be discarded at the conclusion of the procedure.
8. The only exceptions to the labeling requirement are cases in which the

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medication is removed from its original container and immediately administered to the patient.

9. At shift change or break relief, all medications and solutions both on and off the sterile field and their labels are reviewed by entering and exiting personnel.

References: The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals ValleyCare Pharmacy Policy 707 (Pharmaceutical Waste)	
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