

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

NUMBER: 1623

VERSION: 1

SUBJECT/TITLE: DRUG SHORTAGES

POLICY: When drug shortages occur, the pharmacy service will coordinate the review of medications and suitable alternative agents with the Department of Health Services (DHS) Pharmacy.

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines in the event of drug shortages and provide suitable therapeutic alternatives.

DEPARTMENTS: All

DEFINITIONS: A drug shortage is defined as insufficient supply, or potentially insufficient supply, of a particular medication to meet the needs of the prescribers and/or patients.

PROCEDURE:

- A. Anticipated Shortages**
 - 1. DHS Pharmacy reviews all anticipated shortages and summarizes all required information for communication with the staff. See DHS Communication Bulletin below for details.
- B. Unanticipated Shortages**
 - 1. In the event of an unanticipated shortage with no notice, or if a shortage will affect supplies before the next Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee meeting, the Procurement Supervisor will contact DHS Pharmacy for supply information, recommended substitutions, and recommended conservation strategy.
 - 2. The Director of Pharmacy, or designee, will contact the chairperson of the P&T Committee, review DHS recommendations, then forward information to Physician Service Chiefs for review.
 - 3. An update is presented at the next P&T Committee.
- C. DHS Communication Bulletin**
 - 1. DHS Pharmacy provides the “Drug Shortage Bulletin” to County

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pharmacies. The bulletin summarizes drug shortages and suitable alternative agents. The bulletin tracks anticipated and ongoing shortage issues.

2. The Pharmacy Chief, or designee, forwards the “Drug Shortage Bulletin” weekly to the facility Physician Service Chiefs, P&T Committee members and the pharmacists.
3. The Pharmacy Chief, or designee, will bring the therapeutic substitution review and related material to the next scheduled meeting of the P&T Committee.
4. A record of drug shortages and follow-up is included in the P&T Committee minutes. P&T members will forward or discuss shortage information and substitution options to their respective departments.

References: The Joint Commission E-dition, 4.2, 2012, DHS Drug Shortage Bulletins.	
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