Use of Patient’s Own Medications

1.1 Criteria

1.2 Discharge requirements

Policy

When the criteria (outlined below) are met, patient’s own medications can be used during their inpatient stay.

Scope

CDHB Staff involved in Medication and Fluid management and Approved persons

Associated Documents

Self Medication Policy Vol 12
Controlled and Recorded Drugs – Definitions, Storage and Registers Vol 12

Definition

Patient’s medications which are dispensed by a pharmacist in the community. This includes the use of blister packs and dosset boxes which are dispensed by a pharmacist.

Note: All dosset boxes must be checked by a hospital pharmacist as they are not sealed and could potentially have changed.

1.1 Criteria

- Patient and/or significant others must verbally agree to the use of the medications
- The use of patients own medication must be documented on the prescription in the Medication Chart. Original packaging in which
the medication has been dispensed is clean and intact, ie. This may include dosset boxes.

- Blister packs and dosset boxes can only be used if all the medications in the pack/box remain the same as currently prescribed. If there are any changes they cannot be used as this requires individual medications to be identified.
- Dosset boxes dispensed by a community pharmacist can only be used once checked and approved for use by a hospital pharmacist.
- A pharmacist is to check the patient’s medications before use to ensure that they met the criteria for use and that there is sufficient supply for the inpatient stay.
- Out of Pharmacy hours, a Nurse can check the medications against the agreed criteria. If the Nurse is unsure about using any medications, this decision should be left to the Pharmacist during normal hours.
- The medication must be clearly labelled with:
  - Name of patient
  - Name of drug
  - Strength of drug
  - Dose
  - Directions
  - Date of dispensing
  - Pharmacy dispensed from
- Medication is checked for:
  - ONE medication per container
  - Exception: dosset boxes and blister packs
  - Expiry date if present (eg. inhalers, insulins, creams)

Please Note:

If unsure about any of the above, do not use patient’s drugs – use ward stock or hospital-dispensed items.

- Store the patient’s own medications which are being used during their inpatient stay in a container labelled with the patient’s name.

### 1.2 Discharge requirements

Return the following to the patient:

- Any of the patient’s own medications which the patient is prescribed on discharge. If there are insufficient quantities, a script should be provided to the patient.
- Any non-prescription items the patient has purchased.

**Return the following to Pharmacy, NOT to the patient:**
- Any patient’s own medications which are not prescribed on discharge.
- Medications with an expired use by date.
- Medications with illegible or missing label.
- Medications belonging to deceased patients.

| Policy Owner | CDHB Fluid and Medication Management Committee |

Please do not print policies – refer to the internet/intranet for the latest version of CDHB policy