

POLICY MANUAL

Subject: Outside Medications Brought by Patients **Effective Date:** 11/20/90

Initiated By: Cinde Stewart Freeman
Director of Nursing **Approved By:** William C. Anderson
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POLICY:

Medication brought to Cumberland Heights by patients shall not be administered unless they can be identified and unless physician's orders have been given for those specific medications. If the medication the patient brings to Cumberland Heights are not ordered, they will be sent home with a family member/significant other who accompanies the patient on admission. If this is not feasible, the medication will be counted, documented and stored in the secured prohibited items room to be returned to the patient upon discharge. Patients are encouraged during their initial phone assessment to leave all medication with an addiction forming liability at home. All medication with an addiction forming liability brought to Cumberland Heights shall be destroyed upon admission, unless otherwise ordered. If a family member is with the patient, the medication is sent home with him/her.

PROCEDURE:

1. Identification

Medications which shall be administered, that are brought into Cumberland Heights by patients, will be checked by the licensed nurse on duty for identification. This procedure should utilize the Internet or PDR, with pharmacist consultation on an as-needed basis.

2. Physician Orders

Orders for the specific medications brought to Cumberland Heights by patients may be obtained from phone orders by the prescribing physician when necessary. If the patient does not have the home medication on hand at admission, the doctor is made aware when obtaining admitting orders. If the doctor approves, the patient has 24 hours to have the medication delivered. If the doctor does not approve waiting 24 hours, the medication will be ordered immediately through contracted pharmacy. If the home medication is not received within those 24 hours, the medication will be ordered through the contracted pharmacy. The physician may also, at his/her discretion, specify a shorter time frame than 24 hours for the home medication to be obtained. This is included in the orders and communicated to the patient and family. The nurse admitting the patient will document this information in the physicians' orders and progress notes.

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3. Storage of medications brought in by patient which are not used:
 - A. Medications brought in by patients that will not be used, will be sent home with family and/or friends accompanying patient or they will be stored under lock and key in the prohibited items room.
 - B. If a patient brings in a medication with an addiction forming liability, this medication will be destroyed or sent home with family/friends, unless otherwise ordered by the physician.
 1. The medications destroyed shall be documented on the drug destruction sheet.
 2. Two licensed staff members shall attest to the drug destruction.

The signed drug destruction sheet will be kept on file in the Nurses Station. All other medications brought to Cumberland Heights by the patient shall be returned to the patient or family at the time of discharge with physician approval.

1. Any confiscated medications are recorded on the prohibited items sheet (dosage and amount of each) when taken.
2. Return is documented by patient and staff signature at the time of discharge.