LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

DRUG SHORTAGES

PURPOSE:

To establish a plan to evaluate and respond to shortages of pharmaceuticals so patients receive appropriate alternative therapy.

POLICY:

Upon notification of a chronic drug stock outage or an impending long-term shortage, Pharmacy will investigate and implement alternate purchasing and dispensing practices. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee may be involved in decisions related to “rationing” of the item(s).

PROCEDURE:

1. Pharmacy’s Business Manager is notified of shortage and investigates reasons and expected duration of shortage. As a result, availability from other sources is determined and current stock levels are assessed.

2. If any of the following criteria are met, the shortage is termed critical.
   
   A) There is no known release date and stock levels are at or below one-week supply.
   
   B) There is a known release date, but stock levels are not sufficient to supply until that date.
   
   C) There is no known release date and no supplies have been received from any sources for 7 or more days.

3. If a shortage is termed critical, the Business Manager, with the assistance of the Pharmacy Director and Assistant Pharmacy Directors and/or Chairman of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, will evaluate and initiate any of the following:
   
   A) Inventory is pulled from all MedSelect stations and held in Central Pharmacy for patient specific dispensing.
B) Acceptable alternatives will be assessed and evaluated. Acceptable alternatives will be communicated and made available with equivalent dosing information. Communication may be sent through e-mail, written memorandum, and/or direct discussions with prescribers.

C) Specific restrictive guidelines may be initiated with P&T Committee’s approval, and communicated to hospital staff. Pharmacy staff is notified first to be the gatekeeper.

D) A drug shortage list will be updated and made available to hospital staff throughout the duration of the shortage.

4. A manufacturer representative for the affected drug will be contacted to assist Pharmacy in notifying appropriate staff of the shortage, updating Pharmacy on release dates, and, if available, securing stock directly from the manufacturer.

5. The Business Manager will communicate to the Pharmacy Director and Assistant Directors when the shortage has been resolved. A decision will be made, in conjunction with the P&T Committee, on the status of restriction guidelines. If the decision is to lift the drug’s restricted use, hospital staff will be notified.

Administrator

1/21/04_________________
Date

Written: 11/03
Approved by Clinical Board: 1/20/04