LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION VIA THE INTRATHECAL ROUTE

Purpose:
To establish guidelines for the use of the intrathecal route for administration of medications including measures to prevent medication errors when using this route of administration.

Inadvertent intrathecal (spinal route via lumbar puncture or Ommaya reservoir) administration of some medications can be fatal; therefore every effort to prevent this type of medication error should be employed.

Policy:
1. The hospital, through the P&T Committee, shall establish a list of drugs that can be administered intrathecally.

2. When intrathecal drugs are being administered, there will not be any other injectable drugs present in the patient room or procedure area.

3. Only the person administering the medication may remove wraps or packages immediately prior to injection.

4. A “TIME OUT” with the MD and chemotherapy certified or credentialed nurse must be done prior to administration of any intrathecal medication. Documentation of the “time out” must include:
   a. Correct patient
   b. Correct name of the DRUG
   c. Correct DOSE
   d. Correct ROUTE
   e. Correct TIME of administration

as well as names of those healthcare workers conducting the “time out”.
