LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER -
SHREVEPORT

DISCARDING MEDICATIONS

Purpose:

To assure proper administration of sterile medications and reduce the risk of nosocomial infection.

Policy:

1. All vials or ampules that state “contains no preservative” and/or “single use” shall be discarded after each use regardless of the amount not used.

2. Personnel should read the manufacturer’s recommendations carefully before drawing up the medications. Once the medication has been transferred into a syringe, care should be taken not to contaminate the syringe or to store improperly. Medications should be stored away from heat and light. Syringes must be labeled with medication name, time, date, and name of person drawing up medications. Medications drawn into syringes must be discarded in twenty-four hours or sooner if the stability dictates or sterility is compromised.

3. Medications shall be discarded according to manufacturer recommendations. Medications that require reconstitution must be timed, dated, and initialed when opened. Exception: Insulin shall be discarded every 30 days.

4. All vials shall be discarded immediately upon expiration, possible contamination or improper storage, i.e. not refrigerating or exposure to light.

5. All outdated drugs, overstocked medications, and those with worn containers or illegible labels shall be returned to Pharmacy for disposition.

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Administrator

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Date

Clinical Board Approved: 1/16/01; 9/17/02
Written: 10/83
Revised: 8/91, 3/95, 11/97, 9/02, 4/04 typo correction only