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. All medications shall be discarded according to manufacturer recommendations. Medications that require reconstitution must be timed, dated, and initialed when reconstituted; must be used within one hour of reconstitution; and discarded immediately after use.

3. Multi-dose vials (those that contain a preservative) are timed, dated and initialed upon initial needle puncture. All multi-dose vials shall be discarded within 28 days of needle puncture or immediately upon expiration if sooner than 28 days, possible contamination or improper storage, i.e. not refrigerating or exposure to light.

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 All outdated drugs, overstocked medications, and those with worn containers or illegible labels shall be returned to Pharmacy for disposition.

Administrator

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2/21/12

Date

Clinical Board Approved: 1/16/01; 9/17/02, 11/15/05, 2/17/09, 2/21/12
Written: 10/83
Revised: 8/91, 3/95, 11/97, 9/02, 4/04 typo correction only, 10/05, 1/09
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