



Safe Care Pharmacy Update



Heparin Stock changing

As a result of a review of several patient safety incidents involving the administration of an incorrect dose of heparin, the variety of heparin stocked within Starship Child Health is being rationalised (as much as able within the wide variety of clinical uses):

- PICU and ward stock of 1000 units/mL and 25000 units/5 mL will be replaced with 5000 units/5 mL
- NICU will continue with 1000 units/mL as currently stocked
- Starship OR, perfusion and CIR will continue with 1000 units/mL and/or 25000 units/5 mL as currently stocked
- All areas will continue with 50 units/5 mL (heparin saline flushes) and 200 units/2 mL (for locking central catheters) as currently stocked

The heparin 5000 units/5 mL ampoules are similar in size and volume to the heparin 50 units/5 mL ampoules. To minimise the risk of selecting the incorrect strength, the heparin 5000 units/5 mL will be stored in a closed plastic box. Only the amount that is needed should be removed from the box at a time. Do not leave any ampoules outside of the box.

The plan is to do the swap over on Monday the 21st November 2016.

Need to use a patient's own medicine (POM)?

- There are a small number of times when it may be appropriate to administer a medicine the child's parent has brought with them.
- A clinical form has been developed to assist nurses' decision-making and documentation regarding the suitability of the medicines to be used (& what to do if they are not suitable).
- The Nursing Assessment of POM (CR0515) is a PDF form available in Clinical Forms Library on the Intranet. Print when required, complete all steps and file with the National Medication Chart in the patient's clinical record.
- Nurses' responsibility for safe medicine administration remains the same as when administering medicine dispensed from ACH level 6 Pharmacy.

Starship Child Health

Nursing Assessment of POM

Nursing assessment of patient's own medicine (POM) in exceptional circumstances
This assesses a patient's own medicine for use in exceptional circumstances

Patients own medicines should only be used in the exceptional circumstance below:

- After hours as a single dose when the medicine is not available on the ward or via Clinical Nurse Advisor (CNA). Scan chart to pharmacy for dispensing subsequent doses. During working hours, contact your ward Pharmacist or order medicines directly from Pharmacy.
- It is not possible to guarantee the integrity of medicines patient's bring into hospital. However use the following steps as a guide to assist you with the decision to use patient's own medicines.

* This form should be filed with the Medication Chart after completion.

Medicine 1: Name, strength and dosage form: _____
 Medicine 2: Name, strength and dosage form: _____
 Medicine 3: Name, strength and dosage form: _____

Nurse name: _____ Nurse signature: _____ Date: _____

Check medicine label

- Yes - the label is legible
- Yes - correct patient's name is present
- Yes - pharmacy is identifiable
- Yes - name, dose and form match what's prescribed on chart
- Yes - all signs of physical deterioration on medicine and container

Check medicine identification and condition:

- Yes - only one type of medicine is in the container
- Check expiry: Yes - expiry date OK. If no expiry date present, must be dispensed within 14 days.

Check packaging:

- Yes - name, form, strength can be identified
- Yes - patient/carer can confirm medicine name and dose
- Yes - name, dose and form match what's prescribed on chart
- Yes - expiry date > 6M

Are you using patient's own medicine?

- Yes - Is medicine available from pharmacy?
 - Yes - Is medicine available from pharmacy?
 - Yes - Use supply from pharmacy
 - No - Contact register or consultant for review
 - No - Do you have doubts about the integrity of this medicine or see any other reason this medicine should not be used?
 - Yes - Do you have doubts about the integrity of this medicine or see any other reason this medicine should not be used?
 - Yes - Contact register or consultant for review
 - No - Use supply from pharmacy
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At discharge, ensure all patient's own medicines are checked against the discharge prescription(s) and returned to patient/carer as appropriate. Refer to Green Bag policy on the intranet.

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