

CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL
Nursing Policy and Procedure Manual

SECTION F: Medication Policy and Procedures
CHAPTER 23 Medication Management

Policy and Procedure 23.11: Patient Specific Medications (i.e. creams, etc.)

Standard of Practice:

The nurse will ensure that patients receive topical medications as prescribed and that when patient-specific medications are prescribed they are protected from contamination through storage in patient specific drawers of the PYXIS Med Station.

Standard of Care:

The patient can expect to receive prescribed topical medications as ordered and that his/her patient-specific medications are stored in separate matrix sections of the patient specific drawer of the Pyxis Med Station.

Policy:

All patient specific medications such as creams, lotions, eye, ear and nose preparations will be separated in the patient specific drawers which is a matrix drawer by dividers. Each patient will have his or her own divided space (s) in the matrix drawer.

Procedure:

1. All orders for patient specific items will be placed in the patient specific drawers by pharmacy staff or by nursing staff if the medication is unit stock that becomes patient specific after 1st use. (i.e.inhalers, nasal, eye, ear, rectal preparations). Nursing will label the inside of the drawer using the blue med cards with patients first and last name. Some patients may require more than one divided area in a matrix drawer. This is to assure that internal patient specific medications (i.e. blistix, inhalers, eye, ear) are not mixed with any external creams/ointments/lotions (i.e. rectal creams, vaginal creams, etc).
2. Medications that require separate individual dividers within a matrix drawer or separate bins in the cabinets are:
 - a. External topical preparations such as creams, ointments, powders, solutions and lotions.
 - b. Eye preparations such as drops or ointments
 - c. Nasal preparations such as sprays
 - d. Inhalers
 - e. Oral tablets
 - f. Injectables

3. Any tubes designated for unit usage (not individual patients) will be loaded by pharmacy in the Pyxis Med Station or cabinet in the med room if space is not available in the Pyxis Med Station.
 - a. In preparation for administration, any external topical medication will be squeezed into a dosing cup for each usage and then returned to the Pyxis Med Station drawer.
 - b. The RN will assess the area to which the external topical medication has been ordered and document his/her observation of the site in the Integrated Progress Notes daily until resolved. The RN/LPN will administer the topical medication as prescribed and document usage on the MAR, Treatment Kardex and Progress Note as applicable.
4. To remove this cream, tap on the patient's name, select the name of the cream. The next screen will prompt you to, "Please Remove _____ grams." Type in 1 gram if the cream is being applied to a small area of the body. If it is a larger area of the body, you can estimate the amount you will be putting in the cup. *A benchmark estimate to calculate grams is 5 grams = 5 ml.* If a tube of cream has 13 grams overall and you apply it to both legs, then you may use 4 to 5 grams of the tube. The exact amount put into the medication cup and applied on the patient is an estimated amount in grams, not an exact amount.
5. The removal of patient specific medications from the Pyxis Medstation and the return of these items to the medstation will be the same as described in Nursing Procedure 23.1.