Introduction

1.1. Purpose

This policy describes the use of Patient’s Own Medications during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.2. Scope

This policy applies to pharmacists, nurses, and prescribers. This policy is site-wide.

1.3. Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy are:
- The medication is an investigational product and is being taken as part of a research study protocol

-OR-

- There is no equivalent formulary drug or the equivalent formulary drug is not acceptable AND
- The medication cannot be purchased by Pharmacy AND
- The pharmacist and prescriber determine that the medication can be used safely without identification by pharmacy

Policy

During COVID-19, this policy and procedure replaces PTN.02.003 Patient’s Own Medications.

If a patient is receiving a medication that is not on the BC Health Authorities (BCHA) Formulary, there are situations (as outlined in policy PTN.02.003) that a patient may use their own medication supply while in hospital. As part of this process medications brought into the hospital for use by a patient that will be administered by a nurse, are reviewed by Pharmacy to establish identity and to determine whether or not they are safe and appropriate for administration to the patient during their hospital stay. This cannot be done during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During COVID-19, medications brought into the hospital by a patient will not be administered to the patient while in hospital and will not be sent to pharmacy for identification and labelling.

The Pharmacy Department will supply all medications to the patient. When the medication is not on the BCHA Formulary, the Pharmacist will consult with the prescriber to determine whether a formulary medication can be used in place of the patient’s own medication. If not appropriate or if there is no available formulary alternative, Pharmacy will obtain the medication as soon as possible.

In exceptional circumstances where the Pharmacy cannot obtain the patient’s own medication (eg. investigational medications), the Pharmacy will consult with the prescriber and the nurse to ensure that the patient’s own medication can be used safely without identification by Pharmacy.
Responsibilities

1. If medications are brought to the hospital with a patient, the nurse will return the medication to the patient and instruct them not to self-administer the medication while in hospital.

2. The pharmacist will contact the prescriber to discuss formulary options.

3. If no formulary options are available, the pharmacist will procure the medication as soon as possible for the patient.

Supporting Documents

PTN.01.001 Medication Order Requirements
PTN.01.016 Medication Reconciliation
PTN.02.003 Patient’s Own Medications
CM.03.01 Medication Administration – General Guidelines

Version History

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