



College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: Storage of Inpatient Medication,
Return of Unused Medication and
the Use of Medication Brought
into the Animal Health Center by
Owners

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STORAGE OF INPATIENT MEDICATION, RETURN OF UNUSED MEDICATION AND THE USE OF MEDICATION BROUGHT INTO THE ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER BY OWNERS

Storage of Inpatient Medication: All medications, including prescription, over-the-counter, dietary supplements, or other related products administered to patients in the Animal Health Center Hospital shall be dispensed from the AHC Pharmacy and properly labeled for that individual patient. A patient, for the purposes of this policy, is defined as any animal being treated in the Animal Health Center, whether client-owned, research animal, or “good Samaritan.” These medications dispensed by the AHC pharmacy shall be stored in the patient’s medication box found in the nurses’ stations or ICU or other designated secure area approved by the pharmacist. Medications obtained after hours from the Cubex dispensing machines or other emergency supply areas shall be properly labeled and stored in the same manner.

Return of Unused and Discontinued Medication: Once a medication or related product’s use has been discontinued for any reason, it shall be returned as soon as possible to the pharmacy for appropriate credit or disposal. It is the responsibility of the student assigned to the case to perform this function. This includes both medications that are unused and partially used, including those obtained from crash carts or from the Cubex dispensing machines when the pharmacy is closed. **No patient medication shall be transferred to another patient or stored in drawers, desks, etc. or otherwise diverted.** All medications taken into the isolation areas must be destroyed upon discharge of the patient from isolation.

Use of Medication Brought into the Animal Health Center by Owners: All medications brought into the hospital by an owner (“home meds”, i.e., not dispensed from the AHC pharmacy) shall be returned to the owner at the time of admission except under the following circumstances. Exceptions to the policy include only those medications not stocked by the AHC pharmacy and maintenance medications brought in for patients that are boarding, patients admitted to the hospital for the purpose of daily physical therapy and rehabilitation, or patients admitted to the AHC for an extended period of time that require previously prescribed maintenance medications. **All exceptions to this policy must be approved in advance by the AHC Pharmacist.** An initial request for administration of “home meds” in the AHC as an exception to the AHC policy shall be made by the clinician on the case and submitted to the pharmacy, who will determine whether the “home meds” fit the exceptions clause,

including whether the medications can be positively identified. Once authorized, a medication order for each drug shall be entered into the patient record by the student or clinician assigned to the case under the heading "Give home meds as follows." This medical record entry must document that the administration of "home meds" was authorized by the AHC Pharmacy. If medications brought into the hospital by the owner must be retained in the hospital for identification purposes and cannot be sent home with the owner at the time of admission, those medications shall be placed in a zip lock bag by the student or clinician assigned to the case and stored in the pharmacy until such time that the medications can be sent home with the owner. These medications shall not be administered in the hospital. Instructions on the zip lock bag shall state: "Not for administration in the hospital—return to owner."

In accordance with Mississippi Board of Pharmacy regulations, no drug may be returned or exchanged once it has been sent home with a patient/client.

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