

MEDICATIONS

All medications are to be handled aseptically and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

GENERAL:

1. Perform hand hygiene before preparing any medication.
2. Medications must be prepared for administration in a designated clean area.
3. Never use medications beyond the manufacturer's expiration date or "beyond use date".
4. Never use any product when suspected or visible contamination occurs.
5. Use single-dose vials for parenteral medications whenever possible.

SINGLE-DOSE VIALS:

1. Never administer medications from a single-dose vial on multiple patients or combine left over medication for later use.
2. Clean the vial diaphragm with a alcohol prep pad and allow surface to dry before inserting device into vial.
3. Always use a sterile needle and syringe when accessing the medication.
4. A single-dose vial should be entered only once to prevent contamination of the medication.

MULTI-DOSE VIALS:

1. Multi-dose vials should be dedicated to a single patient whenever possible.
2. If a multi-dose vial must be used for more than one patient, the vial must not be stored or accessed in a patient care area which includes operative suites, examination rooms or patient care bays or rooms. If used in the immediate patient care area, the vial must be discarded after use.
3. Once a vial has been opened or accessed the vial must be dated and discarded by the manufacturer's expiration date or within 28 days after opening ("beyond use date"), whichever is less. This includes PPD vials.

4. Clean the vial diaphragm with a alcohol wipe pad and allow surface to dry before inserting device into vial.
5. Always use a sterile needle and syringe when accessing the medication.

**Insulin vials stored in the automated dispensing cabinets (Pyxis) are labeled by the Pharmacy with a 28 day expiration date when placed into the dispensing cabinet.

VACCINES:

Vaccines are exempt from the 28 day "beyond use date". In accordance with the CDC Immunization Program guidelines, vaccines will be discarded based on the manufacturer's expiration date and in accordance with vaccine disposal standards.

MULTI-DOSE INHALERS:

Inhalers are single patient use items.

References:

www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers/provider_fags.html

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