Subchapter D. Pharmaceutical Services

§9825. General Requirements

A. The nursing home shall provide emergency drugs and biologicals to its residents from an emergency kit licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Pharmacy and shall provide routine and emergency drugs and biologicals, ordered by a licensed practitioner, from a licensed pharmacy. Whether drugs and biologicals are obtained from the emergency kit(s) or from a community or institutional pharmacy permitted by the Louisiana State Board of Pharmacy, the nursing home is responsible for ensuring the timely availability of such drugs and biologicals for its residents and that pharmaceutical services are provided in accordance with accepted professional standards and all appropriate federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

B. The most current edition of drug reference materials shall be available.


HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:59 (January 1998).

§9827. Consultant

A. If the nursing home does not employ a licensed pharmacist, it shall have a designated consultant pharmacist that provides services in accordance with accepted pharmacy principles and standards. The minimum consultation time shall not be less than one hour per quarter, which shall not include drug regimen review activities.

B. There shall be documentation to support that the consultation time was given.


HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:59 (January 1998).

§9829. Labeling

A. All drug and biological containers shall be properly labeled by a licensed pharmacist following the guidelines established by the Louisiana State Board of Pharmacy.

B. The label on prepackaged (unit dose) containers shall follow the established guidelines of the Louisiana State Board of Pharmacy.

C. Over-the-counter (nonprescription) medications and biologicals, may be purchased in bulk packaging and shall be plainly labeled with the medication name and strength and any additional information in accordance with the nursing home's policies and procedures. Over-the-counter medications specifically purchased for a resident shall be labeled as previously stipulated to include the resident’s name. The manufacturer's labeling information shall be present in the absence of prescription labeling.

D. The nursing home shall develop procedures to assure proper labeling for medications provided a resident for a temporary absence.

E. The nursing home shall have a procedure for the proper identification and labeling of medication brought into the nursing home from an outside source.


HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:59 (January 1998).

§9831. Storage

A. All drugs and biologicals shall be stored in a locked area/cabinet and kept at proper temperatures and lighting. The medicine room or medication preparation area shall have an operable sink with hot and cold water, paper towels, and a soap dispenser.

B. Access to drug storage areas shall be limited to licensed nursing personnel, the licensed nursing home administrator, and the consultant pharmacist as authorized in the nursing home's policy and procedure manual. Any unlicensed, unauthorized individual (e.g., housekeepers, maintenance personnel, etc.) needing access to drug storage areas shall be under the direct visual supervision of licensed authorized personnel.

C. Medication requiring refrigeration shall be kept separate from foods, in separate containers, within a refrigerator and stored at a temperature range of 36° to 46°F.

1. Laboratory solutions or materials awaiting laboratory pickup shall not be stored in refrigerators with food and/or medication.

2. Medication for "external use only" shall be stored separate from other medication and food.

D. Separately locked, permanently affixed compartments shall be provided for storage of controlled drugs listed in Schedule II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1976 and other drugs subject to abuse.

E. Medications of each resident shall be kept and stored in their originally received containers, and transferring between containers is forbidden.


HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:59 (January 1998).

§9833. Disposition

A. Prescription and Over-The-Counter (OTC) medications and biologicals are to be disposed of in the following manner:

1. If medication(s) and/or biological are discontinued, or the resident is discharged to the hospital, the nursing home will retain the medication(s) for up to 60 days and then destroy as described in §9833.C.2. These must be stored in an appropriately secured storage area approved by the DON.
and consultant pharmacist. If the resident is deceased, the medication will be disposed of as described in §9833.C.2, unless a written order of the attending physician specifies otherwise. If the resident is transferred to another facility, the medication will accompany the resident to the receiving facility, on the written order of the attending physician.

2. Controlled drugs shall not be released or sent with a resident upon transfer or discharge, except on the written order of the attending physician.

B. If the resident/legal representative receives the medications or biologicals, upon written order of the physician, documentation containing the name and the amount of the medication or biological to be received shall be completed and signed by the resident or legal representative and a facility representative acknowledging their receipt. This document shall be placed in the resident's clinical record.

C. Expired medication(s) shall not be available for resident or staff use. These shall be destroyed on-site by nursing home personnel no later than 90 days from their expiration/discontinuation date utilizing the following methods:

1. Controlled drugs shall be destroyed on-site by a licensed pharmacist after receiving DEA authorization to do so on a continuing basis, and witnessed by a state or local law enforcement officer or other licensed nursing home individual, such as RN, LPN or MD. All controlled substances to be destroyed shall be inventoried and listed on a DEA Form 41, a copy of which shall be maintained on the premises, and a copy mailed to the Louisiana State Board of Pharmacy. These drugs shall also be listed on the resident's individual accumulative drug destruction record.

2. For noncontrolled drugs, there shall be documentation of the resident's name; name, strength, and quantity of the drug destroyed; prescription number; method and date of destruction; signatures of at least two individuals (which shall be either licensed nurses who are employees of the nursing home, or the consultant pharmacist) witnessing the destruction. Medications of residents transferred to a hospital may be retained until the resident's return. Upon the resident's return, the physician's order shall dictate whether or not the resident is to continue the same drug regimen as previously ordered. Medications not reordered by the physician shall be destroyed, using the procedures outlined above.


HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:60 (January 1998).

§9835. Administration

A. Drugs and biologicals shall not be administered to residents unless ordered by a practitioner (e.g., physician, dentist, or Doctor of Osteopathy) duly licensed to prescribe drugs. Such orders shall be in writing over the practitioner's signature. Drugs and biologicals shall be administered only by medical personnel or licensed nurses authorized to administer drugs and biologicals under their practice act.

B. Drugs and biologicals shall be administered as soon as possible after doses are prepared, not to exceed two hours. They shall be administered by the same person who prepared the doses for administration, except under unit dose package distribution systems.

C. An individual resident may self-administer drugs if permissible by the nursing home's policy and procedure, and if an interdisciplinary team has determined that this practice is safe. The team shall also determine who will be responsible for storage and documentation of the administration of drugs. The resident's care plan shall reflect approval to self-administer medications.


HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:60 (January 1998).

§9837. Drug Regimen Review

A. The drug regimen of each resident shall be reviewed as often as dictated by the resident's condition. Irregularities shall be reported, in writing, to the resident's attending physician and director of nursing, and these reports shall be acted upon.


HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:60 (January 1998).

§9839. Emergency Medication Kit

A. If an emergency medication kit is used in the nursing home, a permit shall be obtained and maintained in accordance with the Louisiana State Board of Pharmacy.

B. A separate permit is required for each emergency medication kit.


HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:60 (January 1998).

§9841. Medication Record Keeping

A. General Records

1. Each resident shall have a Medication Administration Record (MAR) on which the dose of each drug or biological administered shall be properly recorded by the person administering the drug or biological to include:

a. name, strength, and dosage of the medication;

b. method of administration including site, if applicable;

c. time of administration defined as one hour before to one hour after the ordered time of administration; and
d. the initials of persons administering the medication along with a legend of the initials.

2. Medication errors and drug reactions shall be reported immediately to the resident's attending physician by a licensed nurse, and an entry made in the resident's record.

3. Medications not specifically prescribed as to time or number of doses shall automatically be stopped after a reasonable time that is predetermined by the nursing home's written policy and procedures. The attending physician shall be notified of an automatic stop order prior to the last dose so that he/she may decide if the administration of the medication is to be continued or altered.

B. Controlled Drugs

1. The nursing home shall establish a system of records of receipt and disposition of all controlled drugs in sufficient detail to enable an accurate accounting of all controlled drugs received, administered, and destroyed or otherwise disposed. Only licensed medical personnel shall be allowed to receive and sign for delivery of controlled drugs.

2. Control records of schedule II drugs shall be maintained. The individual resident records shall list each type and strength of drug and the following information:
   a. date;
   b. time administered;
   c. name of resident;
   d. dose;
   e. physician's name;
   f. signature of person administering the dose; and
   g. the balance on hand.

C. Noncontrolled Drugs. Records of noncontrolled medication destruction shall be maintained in the resident's clinical record and shall include the following:

1. resident's name;
2. name, strength, and quantity of the medication;
3. prescription number;
4. method and date of destruction;
5. signatures of at least two individuals (which shall be either licensed nurses, who are employees of the nursing home, or the consultant pharmacist) witnessing the destruction.


HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:60 (January 1998).