

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

SUBJECT:	Dispensing Outpatient Medication to Emergency Department Patients	NO. 41.1 PAGE NO. 1 of 2
-----------------	---	-----------------------------

Original Date of Issue: 12/85

Reviewed:	5/94	3/97	11/98	4/03	4/06		
Revised:	6/88	2/89	6/91	5/93	10/99	8/00	

Patient Population

Neonate	√
Pediatric	√
Adolescent	√
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

POLICY:

To ensure that all patients in the Emergency Department receive needed medication without delay.

To provide a mechanism for patients to secure therapeutic medications in the event these will be unobtainable in the initial hours following discharge.

PROCEDURE:

- All patient prescriptions written in the Emergency Department will be filled by an outside pharmacy. For patients in whom a therapeutic delay is undesirable, starter dose of the attached medicines may be dispensed by the ED physician. Drugs are available in unit dose packages in a locked pharmacy cart.
- Each time a starter dose is dispensed, an appropriate entry must be made on the patient's chart by the physician. The dispensing of a starter dose to a patient is the responsibility of the physician.
- The yellow label on the medicine must be filled out with instructions for use.
- A prescription for the remainder is given to patient with clear instructions that they must complete the recommended course for a satisfactory outcome. The chart must indicate that a starter dose was dispensed and prescription given.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

SUBJECT:Dispensing Outpatient Medication to Emergency
Department Patients

NO. 41.1

PAGE NO. 2 of 2

- Each evening at 17:00, the Department of Pharmacy will deliver to the Emergency Department a cart which will contain a limited supply of starter doses. The purpose of the starter doses is to give the patient a supply of medication to take home until the patient can fill their prescription(s) at their community pharmacy.
- Patients without financial resources for prescriptions will be referred to the social worker.
- Patients with significant blood or body fluid exposure may be given a post exposure prophylaxes (PEP) starter kit. These kits are maintained in the Adult Emergency Pyxis.