

COVID-19

**Medication Storage for Isolation Patient: Includes PUI & COVID-19 Patients**

**Policy Changes Related to Medication Storage for Isolation Patients**

Medications that have entered the isolation room cannot be placed in the Pharmacy return bins or returned to Pharmacy.

**Disposal of medications provided by the Pharmacy for isolation patients:**



- Transport medications to the waste disposal.
- Don clean gloves
- Dispose of the medications per established polices.
  - Remove the medications from the bag, if necessary, to fit in the waste disposal container. If medications will be removed from bag, don clean gloves to do so
  - Dispose of medications
  - The empty bag may be placed in the normal trash container
- Doff gloves
- Perform hand hygiene

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### Handling of a Patient's own meds from home:

- Send medication home with a family or friend who brought the patient whenever possible.
- If the patient indicates a medication is non-formulary, send just that medication to the unit.
- **If medication does not need to be administered in the hospital and cannot be returned home:**



- Label bag as “isolation patient home med” with a sticker or marker.
- Bag is now clean; resume hospital process for storage and retrieval at discharge.

### If pharmacy cannot supply the medication and nurse must administer from patient supply:

- Same process as above for removing from rooms
- Send to pharmacy
- Pharmacy should follow usual procedure if medication(s) remain in bag, including storage, documentation and dispensing
- When med is needed, send bag with medication vial back up to the unit.
- Nurse follows process for medication administration
- Nurse uses same process as above and Return to pharmacy

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### Multi-Dose/Bulk Bottle Medication Storage for Isolation Patients

- A multi-dose/bulk bottle medication, after first use, **must be securely stored inside patient room or in the anteroom**. Used multi-dose/bulk bottle medications must NOT be stored in the medication room.
- At the end of the patient's stay, medications that have entered the isolation room cannot be placed in the Pharmacy return bins or returned to Pharmacy. These medications should be disposed of in the same method as described above

### Code cart handling for suspected patients.

#### Code Carts with medications stay in the hallway outside the patient room.

Note: If code cart includes defibrillator, remove and take into room. Disinfect after use with wipes appropriate for isolation status.

Only the medications to be used should enter the room.

*Note: It is acceptable to bundle medications that are anticipated to be used to decrease room door opening.*

Only return medications to the Pharmacy/central supply that have not been in the patient room.

Any medications which entered the room and were not used should be disposed of in the same method as described above



**Note:** Controlled substances should be disposed of in Smart Sinks. Black bin waste will be disposed of according to EPA guidelines as defined by hospital policy. Non-controlled, non-EPA medication waste from isolation rooms should be discarded in a blue bin located in designated areas on Nursing units. Blue bins **should not** be placed in isolation rooms. When full, the entire blue bin will be placed in a clear plastic bag then sealed by tying closed. This will identify the blue bin as contaminated and EVS will place into the hospital's Hazardous Waste Storage Area for EMSI (our pharmaceutical waste vendor) pick up. EMSI will have the bagged blue bin disposed of by incineration.