
Nurse Dispensing

Declaratory Ruling - Definitions

Definitions – Note for Clarification

- The Declaratory Ruling, written in 1999, uses the term “drug” to define the term “medication”.
- In the following definitions, the term “drug” has been replaced with the term “medication”.

Definitions

■ Adulterated Medication

- ❑ Contains any “putrid, filthy or decomposed substance”
- ❑ Has been produced, packaged or held under unsanitary conditions
- ❑ Has been placed in a container that might render the contents injurious
- ❑ Does not have the identity, strength, quality or purity it is purported to possess

Definitions

Adulterated Medication

- ❑ Has been mixed or packed in a way to reduce the quality or strength
- ❑ Has been substituted in whole or in part
- ❑ Does not otherwise meet the requirements of Health-General Article, §21-216, Annotated Code of Maryland

Definitions

Approved Training – Initial and Ongoing

- Standardized curriculum must include
 - Medications and devices that may be dispensed
 - Steps in dispensing
 - LHD dispensing policies and procedures
 - Storage, packaging, labeling and disposal of medications and devices
 - Inventory
 - Medication interaction management
 - Patient consultation
 - Record keeping
 - Legal aspects of dispensing
 - Procedures to minimize general medication errors
 - Review of pharmacology, therapeutics and side effects

Definitions

Authorized Physician

- ❑ A physician licensed in Maryland, employed by DHMH or a LHD who has applied for and received authorization from the Maryland Board of Physicians to delegate dispensing authority to certain registered nurses who work in local health department clinical practice settings.

Definitions

Dispense

- The procedure which results in the receipt of a prescription or non-prescription medication or device by a patient or patient's agent which includes:
 - Interpreting an authorized prescriber's prescription
 - Selecting and labeling of the medication or device prescribed
 - Measuring and packaging of the medication or device in accordance with State and Federal laws

Definitions

Interpretation

- ❑ Correctly identifying the medication prescribed, and
- ❑ Preparing a label which accurately reflects the instructions for use given on the prescription, such as,
 - Form
 - Dosage
 - Route
 - Frequency of dosing

Definitions

Misbranded medication

- ❑ Label is false or misleading in any way,
- ❑ Label does not meet requirements for labeling under State law,
- ❑ Label does not carry the established name of the medication,
- ❑ Label bears the name of a medication which is not what the container holds,
- ❑ Packaging is in violation of the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970, or
- ❑ Label does not otherwise meet the requirements of Health-General Article, §21-217, Annotated Code of Maryland

Definitions

Patient Profile

- A computerized or hard copy format which lists the following information:
 - Patient's name, address, and date of birth,
 - Patient's allergies, medical problems, and medications,
 - Prescription number,
 - Name, strength, quantity, directions for administration, and manufacturer of medication, and
 - Date the medication is dispensed

Definitions

Physician Delegation Documentation Log

- ❑ An administrative form which certifies that the authorized physician has delegated dispensing authority to specified registered nurses
- ❑ The log must be signed and dated by an authorized physician annually.

Definitions

Prescription Log

- ❑ An administrative form on which each act of dispensing must be recorded in sequential order by prescription number

Definitions

Prescription Log

Documentation from each act of dispensing must include

- Prescription number, sequential and without duplication
 - Brand or generic name of the medication
 - Name of the manufacturer or distributor
 - Quantity dispensed
 - Dosage strength
 - Date of dispensing
 - Lot or serial number assigned to medication dispensed
 - Identification of the dispenser
 - Records of refills, including date of refill and dispenser
 - Name of the patient to whom the medication was dispensed
 - Expiration date
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