

Be Survey Ready

Once surveyors enter your building, your med storage areas will be surveyed that day or the next day depending on the habits of your state surveyors– Be proactive and have each Nurse/ Station Supervisors monitor each shift until the surveyors have exited to prevent F-Tags.

These are things you still have time to correct!

Medication Room

Locked

- Nurse must be present if they allow anyone other than medication dispensing personnel access to the room (LNA, Cleaning, Etc.)

Expiration Dates

- Prescription and OTC
- Lab and dietary products in addition to medications
- Central Supply areas
- Discard Discharged resident meds and supplies
- Contact Pharmacy for additional return totes if needed

Storage

- Neat and Organized
- No medications in or under sink
- No personal items
- No cardboard on the floor
- Meds segregated by route of administration (creams vs. oral vs. eye vs. ear vs. injectable vs. inhaled vs. rectal)

Controlled substances

- Schedule II's and medications of abuse stored in a permanently affixed double locked compartment-including ER stock

Medication Refrigerator

Temperature- 36 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit

- Thermometer inside and functioning
- Temperatures recorded daily (minimum) on log
- Outside normal range- log documents temp adjustment and recheck of temp (contact Maintenance)

Freezer

- No ice; defrost if needed

Expiration Dates

- Injectable meds are dated and initialed when opened. Default to Dispense Date as date opened and document on label if needed
- Pull expired meds and verify those with shortened expiration dates
 - *Insulins*: Open insulins in cart; unopened insulin in refrigerator
 - See [PharMerica Insulin Comparison Chart](#) for product-specific Beyond Use Dates once in-use
 - *Tubersol*: 30 days after open
 - *Flu vaccine*: MDV 28 days after opening
 - *Multi dose products*: 28 days after opening
 - *Eye Drops* (generally): 60 days after opening
 - *Suppositories* often go outdated- check each loose suppository
- Discard discharged resident medications

- See [PharMerica Insulin Comparison Chart](#) for product-specific Beyond Use Dates once in-use

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- Discard discharged resident medications

Storage

- Meds stored in separate containers by route of administration

Controlled substances

- Stored in separate, double locked, permanently affixed container (shelf must also be perm affixed)
- Lorazepam injection; lorazepam Intensol; Roxanol (morphine sulfate 20mg/ml) (note ER Stock and Hospice Stock)

Medication Carts

Locked

- Remind staff!! Never walk away from unlocked cart!

Expiration Dates

- Open containers have Date Opened documented and initials (default to dispense date if missing) (or per facility policy); Discard expired meds with shortened expiration dates if needed (note inhalers, eye drops, etc.)
- PRN medications
- OTC medications
- Insulins should be dated once opened and stored in cart; expirations vary - open in-use pens and vials generally expire after 28 days when stored appropriately; refer to [PharMerica Insulin Comparison Chart](#) for product specific storage and expiration details

Storage

- Neat and organized; clean
- No sticky bottles or drawers;
- No loose pills in bottom of cart; No unlabeled meds (e.g., from e-kit)
- No unidentified med cups with mixed pills for resident or OTC med from stock bottle borrowed from another cart
 - Medications segregated by route of administration (creams vs. oral vs. eye vs. ear vs. injectable vs. inhaled vs. rectal)
 - Discard or return to pharmacy any Discharged resident medications

Medications with Special Expiration Dates

- Remember that some medications have special expiration requirements (see PharMerica P&P Manual Appendix section 9.10) and [PharMerica's Insulin Comparison Chart](#). Unspecified items expire within one year of opening container; eye drops within 60 days of opening (Xalatan 6 weeks).

Treatment Carts

- Topical creams/ointments (etc.) are considered medications. Treat the same as your medication cart