

TITLE:	MEDICATION DISPOSAL	POLICY 16.13
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Authority: WAC 246-888-020
WAC 388-78A-2210
RCW 74.39
RCW 69.41.010
RCW 69.41.085
RCW 18.79.040

PURPOSE:

Provides guidelines for disposal medications.

SCOPE:

All nursing staff.

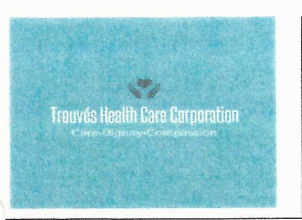
POLICY:

We strive to ensure that all resident medications are disposed of in such a way as is cost-saving and efficient for the resident, and within boarding home and pharmacy regulations.

The policy for disposing of medications must be reviewed and signed by pharmacy.

PROCEDURE:

1. Disposal of medications is necessary when the following occurs:
 - a. Medication expires/is outdated.
 - b. Medication is discontinued by a health care practitioner.
 - c. Medication is left behind when resident moves and/or dies.
 - d. Medication is contaminated (i.e., dropped on floor prior to resident taking it).
2. When possible, all unused (but still prescribed) medications will be given to the resident/responsible party.
3. If a resident leaves the facility:
 - a. Moves to another facility, medications will be sent to the facility with the resident and all relevant information will be documented in the resident file on the medication disposal sheet.
 - b. Goes home with family, medications will be offered to family.



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- i. If taken will be documented in resident record and signed for by family member and staff member on the facility disposal sheet;
 - ii. If declined, will be retained and disposed of after 30 days or at the time of expiration which-ever is sooner. Disposal will be documented in the resident record and on the facility disposal sheet and co-signed by two staff members.
- 4. If the resident and/or responsible party is unavailable, all unexpired medications that are in sealed packages (i.e. bubble or blister packs) will be sent to the pharmacy, if provided by them.
- 5. All other medications (expired, not in sealed containers, etc.) will be destroyed by a licensed nurse or administrator and witnessed by another employee. If there is not a licensed nurse available in the boarding home, then a staff person will destroy the medication and another staff person will witness the destruction. Details of medication destruction (including date/time, medication name, dose, and amount, method of destruction, and signature of person destroying the medications and of person witnessing the destruction) will be documented in the resident's health file.
- 6. All expired, outdated, or discontinued medications shall be removed from the boarding home premises within 90 days of discontinuation of use.

EXCEPTIONS:

No exceptions to this policy may be granted without the prior written approval of the Director.

SUPERCEDES:

None