A. MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES

Policy: It shall be the policy of the Division to establish procedures for reusing certain prescription medications that are dispensed to, but not used by, a patient in a Division Mental Health Agency.

Purpose: To provide guidelines for returning medications to a dispensing pharmacy, providing appropriate safeguards to ensure medications are not compromised or illegally diverted during their return, and maintaining records relating to the return of such medications as are required by the State Board of Pharmacy.

Procedures:

I. A Mental Health agency may return a prescription drug that is dispensed to a patient of the facility, but will not be used by that patient, to the dispensing pharmacy for the purpose of reissuing the drug to fill other prescriptions for patients in that facility if:

A. The drug is not a schedule II drug specified in or pursuant to chapter 453 of NRS;

B. The drug is dispensed in a unit dose, in individually sealed doses or in a bottle that is sealed by the manufacturer of the drug;

C. The drug is returned unopened and sealed in the original manufacturer's packaging or bottle;

D. The usefulness of the drug has not expired;

E. The packaging or bottle contains the expiration date of the usefulness of the drug; and

F. The name of the patient for whom the drug was originally prescribed, the prescription number and any other identifying marks are obliterated from the packaging or bottle before the return of the drug.

II. A Mental Health dispensing pharmacy to which a drug is returned pursuant to this section may reissue the drug to fill other prescriptions for patients in the same facility if the registered pharmacist of the pharmacy determines that the drug is suitable for that purpose in accordance with standards adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy.

III. No drug that is returned to a Mental Health dispensing pharmacy pursuant to this section may be used to fill other prescriptions beyond the expiration date of the usefulness of the medication.

IV. Each Mental Health facility shall adopt written procedures for returning drugs to a dispensing pharmacy pursuant to this section. The procedures must:

A. Provide appropriate safeguards for ensuring that the drugs are not compromised or illegally diverted during their return.

B. Require the maintenance and retention of such records relating to the return of such drugs as are required by the State Board of Pharmacy.

C. Be approved by the State Board of Pharmacy.

D. Adhere to any regulations promulgated by the State Board of Pharmacy as required in item #5 below.

V. The State Board of Pharmacy is required to adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section including, without limitation, requirements for:

A. Returning and reissuing such drugs pursuant to the provisions of this section.

B. Maintaining records relating to the return and the use of such drugs to fill other prescriptions.

REFERENCES:

1. Chapter 433 of NRS, Section 1
2. Chapter 639 of NRS, Section 4

B. DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Policy: It shall be the policy of the Division to establish procedures for reusing certain prescription medications that are dispensed to, but not used by, a patient in a Division Developmental Service Agency.

Purpose: To provide guidelines for returning medications to a dispensing pharmacy, providing appropriate safeguards to ensure medications are not compromised or illegally diverted during their return, and maintaining records relating to the return of such medications as are required by the State Board of Pharmacy.

Procedure:

I. A Developmental Service facility may return a prescription drug that is dispensed to a patient of the facility, but will not be used by that patient, to the dispensing pharmacy for the purpose of reissuing the drug to fill other prescriptions for patients in that facility if:

A. The drug is not a schedule II drug specified in or pursuant to chapter 453 of NRS;

B. The drug is dispensed in a unit dose, in individually sealed doses or in a bottle sealed by the manufacturer of the drug;

C. The drug is returned unopened and sealed in the original manufacturer's packaging or bottle;

D. The usefulness of the drug has not expired;

E. The packaging or bottle contains the expiration date of the usefulness of the drug; and

F. The name of the patient for whom the drug was originally prescribed, the prescription number and any other identifying marks are obliterated from the packaging or bottle before the return of the drug.

II. A dispensing pharmacy to which a drug is returned pursuant to this section may reissue the drug to fill other prescriptions for patients in the same facility if the registered pharmacist of the pharmacy determines that the drug is suitable for that purpose in accordance with standards adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy.

III. No drug that is returned to a dispensing pharmacy pursuant to this section may be used to fill other prescriptions more than one time.

IV. A Developmental Service facility shall adopt written procedures for returning drugs to a dispensing pharmacy pursuant to this section. The procedures must:

A. Provide appropriate safeguards for ensuring that the drugs are not compromised or illegally diverted during their return.

B. Require the maintenance and retention of such records relating to the return of drugs to dispensing pharmacies as are required by the State Board of Pharmacy.

C. Be approved by the State Board of Pharmacy.

D. Adhere to any regulations promulgated by the State Board of Pharmacy as required in item #5 below.

V. The State Board of Pharmacy is required to adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section including, without limitation, requirements for:

A. Returning and reissuing such drugs pursuant to the provisions of this section.

B. Maintaining records relating to the return and the use of such drugs to fill other prescriptions.

REFERENCES:

1. Chapter 449 of NRS, Section 2
2. Chapter 639 of NRS, Section 4

Administrator

Effective Date: 10/8/03
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Approved by MHDS Commission: