



JOINT COMMISSION JEWELS

NPSG #3: Improve the safety of using medications.

03.04.01: Label all medications, medication containers, and other solutions on and off the sterile field in perioperative and other procedural settings.

This applies to all inpatient and outpatient settings where invasive procedures are performed and an intra-operative sterile field is present.

1. When a medication is transferred from the original packaging to another container or the manufacturer's original identification information on the container is removed prior to or during a procedure, the following will occur:
 - Label or mark all medications, medication containers (i.e. syringes, medicine cups, basins), or other solutions even if there is only one medication involved.
 - The labeling or marking should include, when applicable, the name of the medication and or solution, strength, dosage, expiration date when not used within 24 hours and expiration time when expiration occurs in less than 24 hours and initials.
 - All labeling or marking should be verified both verbally and visually by two qualified individuals when the person preparing the medication/solution is not the person who will administer the solution.
 - No more than one medication/solution is labeled at a time.
 - Any medication or solution found without identifying labeling or markings will be discarded.
 - All labeled containers on the sterile field are discarded at the conclusion of the procedure.

03.05.01: Reduce the likelihood of patient harm associated with the use of anticoagulant therapy.

1. **IV Heparin:** follow the approved weight based protocol which establishes baseline laboratory monitoring parameters and criteria for dose adjustments. Only premixed, standard concentrations will be used. Heparin infusions are only administered by a programmable infusion pump.
2. **Subcutaneous Heparin:** monitor patients according to established criteria. Heparin vials will be maintained in the pyxis in single access pockets. Only specified concentrations will be used.
3. **Warfarin therapy:** follow established guidelines. Only unit-dose Warfarin will be dispensed in the pyxis machines in single-access packets. Patients will fall into one of two categories, (1) New start of therapy or a current patient with fluctuation or (2) stable Warfarin maintenance patients.
4. Education will be provided to patients and families regarding their anticoagulation therapy including specific dietary concerns with Warfarin.
5. Education will also be provided to the prescribers and to the hospital staff.
6. Patients that are coming in for procedures will be evaluated for current anticoagulation therapy and assessed prior to treatment.