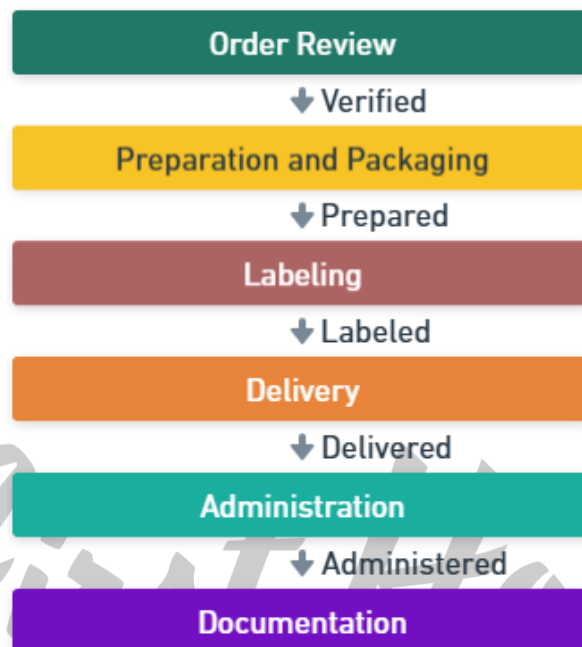


Drug Distribution System In A Hospital

Dispensing of drugs to inpatients

- In hospitals, medications for inpatients are typically dispensed from a central pharmacy or satellite/unit-dose pharmacies, depending on hospital size, patient needs, resources, and institutional policies.
- Dispensing involves preparing and providing medications based on physician prescriptions, following these steps:



1. Order Review:

- A hospital pharmacist reviews the physician's order to verify dosage appropriateness, potential drug interactions, allergies, and other therapeutic considerations.

2. Preparation and Packaging:

- Once verified, the medication is prepared.
- This may involve counting tablets, preparing liquids, or compounding medications as required.

3. Labeling:

- The medication package is labeled with essential details, including the patient's name, bed number, drug name, dose, route, frequency, and any special instructions.

4. Delivery:

- Prepared medications are delivered to the nursing station or directly to the patient via a distribution system suited to the hospital's setup.

5. Administration:

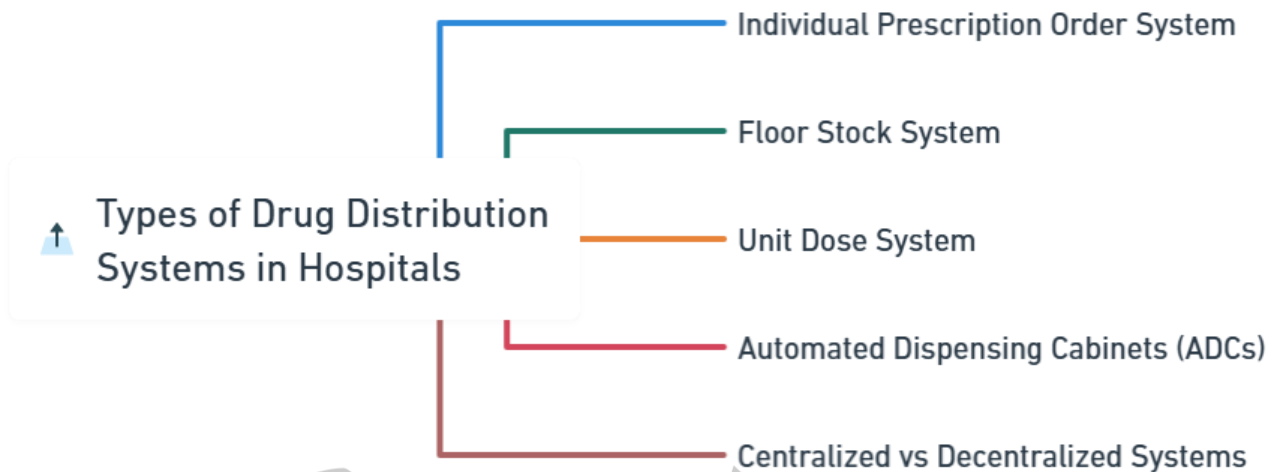
- Nurses administer the medication, confirming it matches the prescribed order against the patient's chart before administering.

6. Documentation:

- After administration, the nurse records the time and relevant details in the patient's medical record to ensure accurate tracking.

Types of Drug Distribution Systems in Hospitals

- Different drug distribution systems are employed in hospitals to optimize medication management.
- The choice of system depends on factors like hospital size, resources, and patient needs.



1. Individual Prescription Order System:

Process:

- Medications are dispensed upon receipt of individual prescriptions for each patient.

Advantages:

- Personalized medication management.
- Reduced medication waste.

Disadvantages:

- Time-consuming for pharmacy staff.
- Increased potential for errors due to manual processes.

2. Floor Stock System:

Process:

- Common medications are stored in bulk on nursing units, allowing nurses to access and administer as needed.

Advantages:

- Immediate availability of medications.
- Reduced pharmacy workload for dispensing.

Disadvantages:

- Higher risk of medication errors and drug diversion.

- Challenges in inventory control and expiration management.

3. Unit Dose System:

Process:

- Medications are dispensed in single-dose packages, each labeled for a specific patient and administration time.

Advantages:

- Enhanced patient safety by reducing medication errors.
- Improved inventory control and reduced waste.

Disadvantages:

- Increased initial setup costs.
- Requires more pharmacy resources for packaging and labeling.

4. Automated Dispensing Cabinets (ADCs):

Process:

- Electronic drug storage devices located on nursing units dispense medications upon authorized access.

Advantages:

- Immediate access to medications.
- Enhanced security and tracking of medication use.

Disadvantages:

- High initial investment and maintenance costs.
- Requires staff training and adherence to protocols.

5. Centralized vs. Decentralized Systems:

Centralized Pharmacy:

- All dispensing occurs from the main pharmacy.
- **Advantages:** Consolidated control, standardized procedures.
- **Disadvantages:** Potential delays in medication delivery.

Decentralized Pharmacy:

- Satellite pharmacies located throughout the hospital.
- **Advantages:** Faster delivery, improved communication with clinical staff.
- **Disadvantages:** Increased staffing and operational costs.

Charging Policy in Hospital Pharmacy

- A hospital pharmacy's charging policy outlines the procedures for billing patients or their insurance for medications.



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