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DEMO DOSE® by Pocket Nurse

Guidelines for Safe Use of Simulated Medications

Background and Purpose

The use of simulated medications has been a key contributor to effective learning of best medication administration and preparation practices by healthcare professionals. Demo Dose® by Pocket Nurse® is a leading supplier of simulated medications that are critical instructional aids for educating healthcare providers in medication preparation, administration, and storage procedures, as well as teaching best practices for the healthcare community.

The following are guidelines for the safest use of Demo Dose® simulated medications for classroom and simulation lab education. Your organization is solely responsible for creating and enforcing policies, based upon the operation and needs of your specific organization, that ensure the safe and proper use of Demo Dose® products. Each organization's internal safety policies and procedures must also be followed at each facility within the organization. These guidelines do not serve as a replacement for your organization's existing policies, but as a supplement to effective and successful policies that currently exist in each organization.

Pocket Nurse® is not liable for any use of Demo Dose® simulated medications that are not in accordance with our No Human/No Animal Use Protocol, the below guidelines, and your organization's policies and protocols. It is the intent of Pocket Nurse that the following guidelines supplement and enhance your organization's simulation lab safety protocols when simulated medications are in use and are stored and maintained in your educational setting.

Simulated Medications: Required Guidelines

General Usage Protocol Recommendations:

- Simulated medications must be kept separate and significantly distant from real clinical supplies and inventory at all times. Recommended storage areas are in a separate room from real clinical supplies, using separate/unique storage equipment.
- "For Simulation Only" labels must be placed on all simulated medications and on shelves holding simulated medications.
- Simulated medications must be used exclusively within the controlled simulation lab or designated training areas only. Simulated medications should never leave the educational area or simulation laboratory.
- Simulated medications cannot leave the premises and must be stored in a secured/locked location when not in use.
- A strict accounting process of quantities of each and every simulated medication before and after each simulation session must be conducted.

Storage:

- Simulated Medications must be stored in a separate designated cabinet, drawer, bin, or shelving system to ensure storage is separate and significantly distant from any real medications or supplies.

- Clear signage and labeling must be applied to drawers, doors, lids etc. where simulated medications are contained. "Simulated Medications for Training Use Only" labels must be prominently displayed on all outer and inner storage areas and packaging.
- A locking mechanism is required on all storage rooms or cabinetry where simulated medications are contained. Access to simulated medications must be restricted to clinical instructors, educators, and others who have been trained on the 'No Human, No Animal Use" policy for simulated medications and on all additional simulated medication guidelines, including the guidelines specified herein.

Usage:

- Educators must emphasize to each student the proper use of simulated medications; namely, that simulated medications are for simulation purposes only. Students are to be clearly instructed that simulated medications are to be used for practice with medication preparation and administration within the classroom or lab only. Instructors must also clearly emphasize to all students that simulated medications are not to be used on humans or animals and cannot be removed from the classroom or lab.
- Learners must be instructed by faculty to check supplies and quantities prior to entering/leaving the simulation area to prevent inadvertent removal.
- Proper disposal of simulated medications is to be in designated bins only – they must never be mixed into real biohazard waste bins or general garbage cans. Classroom and simulation lab signage must indicate the proper area for disposal of simulated medications.

Monitoring:

- Quarterly reviews of current safety practices against regulatory guidelines and accreditation standards must be maintained and documented with sign-off by all instructors and faculty.
- Quarterly audits of simulated medications and supplies and reconciliation practices must be conducted and documented. A hard copy binder system or formalized electronic auditing system must be instituted and maintained by the simulation lab coordinator or program director.
- In the case of discrepancies or issues involving simulated medications, each issue or discrepancy must be addressed and resolved promptly withing 24 hours of occurrence. Reporting to leadership must occur within 24 hours of the incident.
- Routine staff training on simulated medication safety protocols must be conducted. New educators and faculty must be introduced and signed off on simulated medication usage and protocols during the onboarding period and prior to handling any simulated medications.
- Prior to use, simulated medications should be flagged in each organization's EHR platform systems using their unique identifiers. This flagging process helps to distinguish simulated medications from real medications, preventing potential mix-ups and errors.

Student Responsibilities/Accountabilities:

- Each student must sign a consent form to reflect their commitment to medication safety and an understanding of simulated medication usage, simulation lab etiquette, and responsibility while in the lab. This execution of a consent form must occur on day one of each new student's arrival to the simulation lab and prior to engaging in simulation lab learning activities.

By adhering to these safety measures, healthcare organizations can effectively utilize simulated medications for educational purposes while minimizing the risk of adverse events or confusion with actual medications.