

Patient Education Sheet

Use of Patient's Own Medications from Home

Supplying of Medications

Safe drug administration is a priority at Danbury Hospital. To reduce the possibility of medication errors, the hospital pharmacy will supply medications to patients. The use of patients' own medications is strongly discouraged.

If a patient brings in medications from home, the staff will ask that a family member bring the medications back home. If the medication cannot be sent home, it will be placed in a valuables envelope and sent to security for safe keeping until the patient is discharged from the hospital.

Are there times when patients are permitted to use their own medications?

Patients will only be permitted to use their own medications when it is the only way to supply the medication in a timely manner—this happens from time to time when it is a medication that is not normally carried by the pharmacy.

In the event that a patient must take his/her own medication while in the hospital, the following policy is followed:

1. There must be a physician order for the medication and it is to be determined that the patient will be taking his/her own medication.

2. The medication must be identified by the hospital pharmacist and approved for use prior to administration.
3. The medication will be stored with the other locked patient medications at the nursing station.
4. If the pharmacist cannot identify the medication as labeled, then every effort will be made to obtain the medication. In this situation, the patient's own supply will need to either be brought home or sent to security until discharge from the hospital.

Can I bring in my medication and just take it on my own?

You cannot bring in your own medications from home and just take them on your own. It is extremely important that your physician and nurse know exactly what medications you are taking while in the hospital.

This is important for treatment of your illness/condition and to prevent any medication reactions with the other prescriptions that your physician has ordered. All medication orders are checked by a pharmacist to assure that there will be no drug reactions that can occur from mixing the different medications. This process is done for your safety.