Expired Medications

Stock Rotation

- Medications should be stored in a manner that ensures proper rotation of stock
- Stock rotation helps to prevent medication expiration prior to use
- Expired medications must be removed from stock each month.

Expired Medications

- The medication inventory must reflect whether medications were returned to the supplier or disposed
- If disposed, the disposal process must meet requirements of State and Federal laws.

Expired Medications - Removal from Stock

- Compare the expiration date stamped on the medication container with the expiration date entered into the Medication Inventory Log
- If possible, gather, count and return expired medications to the supplier or reverse distributor for partial credit.

Expired Medications - Medication Disposal

- If unable to be returned, expired medications must be disposed.
- Medication disposals must be witnessed by two registered nurses. These same registered nurses must sign the medication Inventory Log attesting to having witnessed the disposal.

Expired Medications - Medication Disposal

- Note the date, lot numbers, and reasons for disposal on the Medication Inventory Log.
- Controlled substances must be gathered, counted and returned to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for disposal.

Expired Medications - Medication Disposal

- The only method for medication disposal is incineration at an approved biomedical waste disposal site.
- Check with the facilities management staff at the LHD for instructions.
- Flushing or pouring of liquids down a drawn are NOT acceptable.

Expired Medications – Record Keeping

- Following disposal, the Medication Inventory Log related to the eliminated medications must be removed from the active files, but retained for a minimum of five years.