



Policy Title: Drug Samples		Former Policy Number: OP-0014	
Document Owner: Ayesha Khan		Approver(s): Erin Shaughnessy	
Date Created: 06/19/2020	Date Approved: 02/17/2020	Date Updated: 02/27/2023	Review Due: 02/17/2026
Applies To: RUMC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUMG <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROPH <input type="checkbox"/> RCMC <input type="checkbox"/> RCH <input type="checkbox"/> ROPPG <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCMG <input type="checkbox"/>			

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I. Policy

1. Pharmaceutical product samples constitute a potential hazard in the inpatient hospital setting.
2. Pharmaceutical product samples will not be stored, dispensed, or administered in any patient care area or emergency room of the hospital.
3. No samples will be available in any hospital-based clinics unless specifically approved in writing by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO). If approved by the CMO:
 - o The selected hospital-based clinics must maintain 100% compliance with all applicable Joint Commission requirements at all times
 - o Communication to RUMG/ROPPG and Pharmacy leadership must occur about the use of these samples. Documentation is kept on file in the RUMG office
 - o use of samples in RUMG/ROPPG is assessed regularly through the RUMC Compliance Office with an annual Conflict of Interest survey
4. Any unapproved pharmaceutical product samples found in the hospital patient care areas and emergency room will be removed by the Department of Pharmacy for proper disposal.
5. This policy applies to both legend drugs (prescription only) and non-legend (non-prescription or over the counter) sample drugs and supplements, regardless of source (mail, medical service representatives, physicians). This does not apply to over the counter cosmetics.
6. Vouchers and coupons for medications may be distributed by clinic personnel only. Coupons must not be available in patient waiting areas.
7. If patients are admitted to the hospital directly from a physician office with drug samples, the samples will be sent home with a family member or sent to security until discharge. If the medication is prescribed for the inpatient stay, the non-formulary medication process will be utilized to assess for appropriateness.
8. Pharmacy personnel will monitor inpatient medication storage areas for drug samples on a monthly basis. (See Operational Policy and Procedure: Medication - Storage and Control, Medication Storage Area Inspections)



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9. For hospital-based clinics, compliance is assessed by monthly inspections conducted by personnel in the clinics.

II. Definitions

n/a

III. Procedure

n/a

IV. Attachments

n/a

V. Related Policies or Clinical Resources

Medication - Storage and Control, [Medication Storage Area Inspections](#)

VI. References and Regulatory References

The Joint Commission Medication Management Standards, MM 01.01.01 - MM 08.01.01