Department of **Health**
Government of **Western Australia**

OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE

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Subject: Pharmaceutical Review Policy

In April 2004, Australia's Health Ministers agreed that all public hospitals would have in place a process of pharmaceutical review to promote the safer use of medicines. The Department of Health has developed the Pharmaceutical Review Policy to assist Western Australian hospitals and health services meet this obligation.

The process of pharmaceutical review outlined in this policy is 'the systematic appraisal of all aspects of a patient's medication management to optimise patient outcomes.' It consists of five standards:

1. Chart review - all inpatient medication charts are to be reviewed, ideally on a daily basis, by an appropriately credentialled professional, such as a clinical pharmacist.
2. Medication reconciliation on admission - medication reconciliation, including an accurate medication history, is to be conducted for all inpatients by an appropriately credentialled professional, ideally within 24 hours of admission for high-risk patients.
3. Medication education during hospitalisation and on discharge - patients and/or their carers are to be provided with medication education during their hospitalisation to ensure that they have an understanding of their medications, and ideally be given a medication profile on discharge.
4. Discharge process: communication with general practitioners and other health professionals - a patient's medication related information is to be provided to their general practitioner and other health professionals upon discharge.
5. Quality initiatives promoting medication safety – health services are to be involved in medication related safety and quality initiatives.

Hospital Chief Executives and Managers will ensure that the standards contained within the Pharmaceutical Review Policy are in place by June 2008.

Further information and copies of the Pharmaceutical Review Policy are available from the Office of Safety and Quality in Health Care, safetyandquality@health.wa.gov.au or 9222 4080.

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