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| **Pharmacy Services (Hospice)** | **Last Revision:** | April 2017 |
| **Last Reviewed:** | April 2019 |
| **Applies to the following THA Group of Companies:**  | Island Hospice |
| **Included in the following THA Manual:** | Administrative Policy and Procedure ManualProvision of Care, Treatment, & Service |

**POLICY**

Regular and reliable pharmaceutical service is available to provide hospice patients with prescription and nonprescription medications, services, related equipment and supplies. A written agreement with a contracted pharmacy stipulates financial arrangements and the terms of the services provided.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Island Hospice maintains a written agreement with the contracted pharmacy signed by the CEO and an authorized representative of the provider pharmacy.
2. The contracted pharmacy is responsible for rendering the required service in accordance with local, State, Federal laws and regulations as well as Island Hospice policies and procedures.
3. The contracted pharmacy agrees to perform the following pharmaceutical services, including but not limited to:
	1. Maintaining a written list of medications, including strength, and dosage for dispensing and administering.
	2. Developing written medication substitution protocols to be used in the event of a medication shortage or outage.
	3. Maintaining a medication profile on each patient that includes all medications dispensed and agency-provided information on the patient's age, diagnosis, weight, and payer source if applicable.
	4. Screening each new medication order for an appropriate indication or diagnosis; for drug interactions with other medications ordered for the patients; for duplication of therapy with other drugs in the same therapeutic class ordered for the patient; and for appropriate drug dosing interval, and route of administration,
	5. Providing medication information and consultation to Island Hospice’s interdisciplinary team.
	6. Where appropriate, assisting the physician and Agency in documenting the need for a "non-covered" or non-formulary medication ordered for a patient otherwise eligible for medication benefits through Medicaid or other third-party programs.

4. Contracted pharmacy will oversee local pharmacies in the following:

1. Supplying only USP and NF approved medication, biologicals, and supplies, other than extemporaneously compounded medications or investigational new drugs.
2. Labeling of all medications dispensed in accordance with all applicable laws.
3. Providing medications packaged in accordance with patient/agency needs
4. Accurate dispensing of prescriptions based on authorized orders.
5. Providing for routine and timely pharmacy service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.