**Issue/Process: Home Medications**

**Status:** Approved

**Action Requested:**

**Reviewing Group:** CPOE Steering Committee

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**Issue/Background: Home Medications**

Physicians may instruct that patients be able to take medications that they or their family bring from home. This would typically take place when the medication they take is not on Virtua’s formulary, cannot be substituted, and is not immediately available from the Virtua pharmacy. All such medications must be profiled by the pharmacy, including the patient’s medication list, and be administered under the direction of the nursing staff. Use of the patient’s own medications is strongly discouraged for medications that are available through Virtua's pharmacy. Under CPOE, a specific order is required authorizing the use of each individual home medication. The use of therapeutic substitutions is strongly encouraged wherever possible.

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**Recommendations**

- Patients be permitted to take medications brought from home when those medications are not available on Virtua's formulary
- A specific order be required for each individual "home" medication
- "Home" medications be identified and profiled through the pharmacy and administered by the nursing staff only
- Therapeutic substitution for non-formulary medications is strongly encouraged

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**Source of Recommendations**

- CPOE Team
- Pharmacy leadership
- NJ Board of Pharmacy Regulations
- CPOE Operations Group

**Response/Comments:**

(Please reply “Approve”/“Schedule Conference Call” /“Red Flag” using voting buttons)