

Automated Unit Dose

Frequently Asked Questions #1

Will all of my patient's medication be in the strip?

- No. All **regularly scheduled** oral tablets and capsules will be packaged in the strips. PRN medications or narcotic and controlled medication will still be found in wardstock (i.e. Omnicell) or delivered in a baggie from pharmacy just like they are now.
- **Some medications cannot go in the strip** due to safety or practical issues. These medications may include cytotoxics or dissolvable tablets. Within the strip there will be an empty '**Reminder Bag**' which will prompt the nurse to retrieve a baggie within the blue bin.
- Regularly scheduled *acetaminophen* will also not be strip-packaged due to volume and length of strips/storage space required.

Will *each* medication package have patient identifiers printed on it?

- No, only the first package ('HEADER' package) of each medication administration time will show patient identifiers. This package will be empty. Subsequent packages will be labeled with drug information, but not client identifiers. Therefore if a medication is returned, it can safely be reused as long as the pouch is undamaged and the medication is intact.

Will there be a separate strip for each medication time?

- No. AUD strips will be delivered to clinical units in a blue bin with individual compartments. Each patient will have an intact **24hr AUD strip**. Remove the strips from the bin and store in patient medication cart drawers. Strips should only be separated at each administration time.

If my patient is discharged home, what will I do with the AUD strip?

- AUD strips which are no longer needed must be placed in the pharmacy return bin.

If I get a patient admission on my shift, will pharmacy send an AUD strip that day?

- No. AUD strips are processed once every 24 hours at night. Any non-wardstock medications needed for a newly admitted patient will come to the unit from pharmacy in baggies, like before. Once orders are received by the Vancouver Pharmacy Production Centre (VPPC), the patient's medications will arrive in an AUD strip the following morning.

How will the AUD process work on weekends and holidays?

- There will be no difference with how AUD strips are delivered on weekends or holidays. The schedule does not change and you will continue to receive the strips at the same time, in the same place.