

Automated Unit Dose

ST PAUL'S HOSPITAL - 2018

AUD SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Promotes Patient Safety
- Increases efficiency for both nursing and pharmacy
- Contains all regularly scheduled oral tablets and capsules
- MAR matches AUD strip for ease of medication verification
- Contains split pills
- Medications can be crushed within the pouch when appropriate
- An empty Patient 'header' pouch is used at bedside to connect patient to medications
- 24hr supply of medication

What is Automated Unit Dose (AUD)?

This is a new medication delivery system being implemented at SPH to minimize errors and automate the process of dispensing regularly scheduled oral solid medications. With this new system, medication will be packaged in unit dose pouches in a 24 HR strip. Each strip will have a Header with patient identification **for each administration time.**

Regularly scheduled oral solid medications will be individually packaged by an Automated Unit Dose



AUD strip. Sorted by dosing time to match MAR.

(AUD) machine in the pharmacy at the Vancouver Pharmacy Production Center (VPPC). The AUD medication strips will be delivered to nursing units in rolls once

daily for a 24 hour supply effective 0800 H to 0759 H and will be delivered to the nursing unit prior to day shift. Strip medications will be dispensed in the dose required, including partial tablets, and with the following information:

Patient (Header):

includes patient name, MRN, location and admin time.

Pouch Label (Med):

includes medication name, strength, description, and special instructions.

AUD workflow

The dose ordered by the physician is printed on the MAR. A 'dose' may require multiple tablets or capsules in which case

each tablet or capsule will be packaged and labeled individually and consecutively in a strip. Doses which require

partial tablets will be supplied in the pouch already split and will NOT require further manipulation by nursing.

The AUD strip for each patient is sorted by administration time. Medications for each administration time will be sorted by AFHS* class. The medications listed on the MAR page will match the sequence of the medications in the Automated Unit Dose (AUD) strip for easier verification.

Some medications cannot be run through the AUD machine. These will be sent by the site pharmacy in a separate baggie (e.g. cytotoxic oral medications or quick dissolve tablets).

The AUD rolls will be delivered to a convenient location as determined by nursing

leaders. Deliveries will occur prior to day shift start time (630-730 a.m.).

Day shift nurses will transfer the AUD strip from the blue tray to their patient's medication cart drawers.

Do not separate the AUD strip pouches until administration time.



AUD tray, arrives on the nursing unit prior to day shift.

When ready to administer doses for a specific med time, tear off the required section of the AUD strip (with the patient Header pouch) which must be taken to the bedside.

After removing meds from the packaging, the empty pouches (containing the drug name) should be disposed of in garbage containers on the nursing unit.

The Header package containing confidential patient information must be disposed of in the confidential grey "Shred-It" consoles.

Medications left in the blue tray will be picked up by Pharmacy the next day when the blue trays are exchanged.

MAR Changes

MAR changes:

Section 1: Pre-Mixed infusions

Section 2: IV Medications

Section 3 : Unit Dose Scheduled Medication - all AUD strip meds

Section 4: Other Scheduled Medications (non-AUD scheduled meds, e.g., patches, liquids)

Section 5: PRN Medications (no change)



Automated unit dose machine for AUD medication packaging is located at Vancouver General Hospital.

Note the following:

- ◆ Regularly scheduled **range orders** cannot be processed through the automated machine, and will be clarified by pharmacy.
- ◆ Medications required for newly written orders will be available in the Omnicell or sent from pharmacy as **interim doses** until available in the AUD Strip.
- ◆ For partial doses (e.g. one-half tablet), site pharmacy will send **full tablets** as interim doses and nursing will be responsible for splitting the tablets.



Sample of an AUD strip with empty patient Header package at top

* American Hospital Formulary Service

AUD FAQ

Q: Which medications will be available in the strip packs?

A: Most regularly scheduled tablets and capsules will be provided in the strip packs. Exceptions include but are not limited to cytotoxic drugs, medications that require refrigeration, and narcotic and controlled drugs.

Q: What about patches and other medications that aren't tablets and capsules?

A: No changes, these medications will be available in Omnicell or sent by pharmacy.

Q: What happens to PRN medications?

A: PRN medications will be sent upon receipt of a new medication order. Once the PRN supply on the unit is running out, a refill request should be sent to the pharmacy for additional supply for those items not stocked in the Omnicell, as per current process.

Q: What time of day will the strip-packs arrive at my nursing unit?

A: Nursing units will receive their strip-packs prior to Day Shift (i.e. 0630-0730)

Q: How will the strip-packs be sorted?

A: The delivery tray contains one slot per bed. The AUD strip will be in the slot corresponding to the patient's bed.

Q: Who will be responsible for checking the contents of the strip-packs once they arrive on my nursing unit?

A: The medication will always be checked **against the MAR** at the time the medications are administered.

Q: How will I identify pouches that need to have a medication added or removed?

A: New and discontinued orders should be noted on the MAR. The AUD strips should be checked against the MAR prior to administration. Discontinued medication in the pouches should be returned to pharmacy in the returns bin. Do not remove a discontinued med for a future admin time.

Q: What do I do if a strip is missing a dose?

A: Check the Omnicell, if not found contact your site pharmacy (MOM) for any missing medication. When pharmacy is closed, contact your on-call pharmacist if urgently required.

Q: What do I do if I drop a medication?

A: Check the Omnicell cabinet for a replacement. If the medication is not available in wardstock, contact the pharmacy (MOM) for a replacement.

Q: Can I crush the contents in a packet without opening the packet?

A: Yes, but first confirm if med can be crushed by checking the auxiliary directions on the MAR and / or consult with a pharmacist.

Q: Do I need to request refills for the strip-packed medications?

A: No.

Q: When will I know if the medications ordered will be available in the AUD strip?

A: Interim doses for new orders (not available in the Omnicell) will be provided by the site pharmacy in sufficient quantity to last until it is packaged with the next AUD strip delivery

Q: What do I do with the empty strip-packed packets?

A: Header packages containing confidential patient information must be disposed in a confidential waste container such as the grey Shred-It consoles. It is more efficient to store Headers in or near your med cart in a paper bag until the end of your shift or when full. This bag can be placed directly into the console. Do not dispose the header package in the regular garbage.

Empty medication packages (without patient information) may be disposed of in the regular garbage.

Q: Where do I dispose discontinued or refused medications?

A: Return all unopened pouches to the pharmacy return bin. Returned doses in unit dose packaging may be recycled for use by your site pharmacy.

Q: What do I do if the strip packs don't come on time?

A: Call your site pharmacy.

Q: What do I do when I discover a packing error?

A: Notify site pharmacy ASAP and complete a PSLS.

Q: What do I do with the AUD strips if my patient is transferred to a non-Providence (PHC) hospital?

A: All AUD medications should be returned to pharmacy.

Q: What do I do if medications are needed for a PASS?

A: Pass meds procedures remain unchanged. Do not send AUD strip meds with your patient on a pass.