

HOSPITAL FORMULARY

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The hospital formulary is a continuously revised compilation of the pharmaceutical preparation that reflects the current clinical judgment of the medical staff. This is a method whereby the medical staff of an institution working through the pharmacy and therapeutics committee evaluates, appraises and selects from among the numerous available drug entities and drug products that are considered most useful in patient care thus only those so selected are routinely available from the pharmacy. The formulary system is thus an important tool for assuring the quality of drug use and controlling its cost.

The formulary system provides for the procuring prescribing, dispensing, and administration of drugs under either their nonproprietary or proprietary names in instances where drugs have both name.

Guiding Principles:

The following principles will serve as a guide to physicians, surgeon, pharmacists, nurses and administration in hospital and other facilities utilizing the formulary system.

- (1) The formulary system is sponsored by the medical staff upon the recommendation of the pharmacy and therapeutic committee (PTC).
- (2) The medical staff should follow the policies and the adopted procedures developed by the PTC.
- (3) This serve as the guiding principle in the critical evaluation or appraisal, selection, procurement storage, distribution and on the safe and rational use of drugs.

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- (4) Drugs are included in the formulary by their non-proprietary names, even if proprietary names may be in common use in the institution.
- (5) The institution shall make certain that the medical and nursing staffs are informed about the existence of the formulary system, the procedure governing its operation and any changes in those, procedures copies of the formulary must be readily available and accessible at all times.
- (6) Provision shall be made for the appraisal and use of drugs not included in the formulary by the medical staff.

Since the formulary is the vehicle by which the medical and nursing staff make use of the system it is important that it be complete, concise and easy to use. These guideline are offered as an aid to the pharmacist who will be preparing a formulary for their institution.

Preparation of the Formulary:

The preparation of the hospital formulary although the prime responsibility of the pharmacy and therapeutics committee, rests upon the pharmacist in chief. This is desirable for the sake of expediency. The committee is here by responsible to make the necessary decisions relevant to the materials to be included in the formulary and the pharmacist undertakes the production aspects of preparation.

The initial step in the developments of a formulary for any hospital irrespective of size, especially the control of drugs is the selection of a competent pharmacy and therapeutics committee. During the preparation the important aspects pertaining to drugs which need consideration are:

- (a) The product content of the preparation.
- (b) Its availability.

- (c) Its pharmacokinetic profile, namely, characteristics of absorption, metabolism and excretion.
- (d) Dosage form and the adult, paediatric, neonatal and geriatric dose.
- (e) Drug-drug and drug-food interactions.
- (f) Side effects, adverse effects, safety in use during pregnancy, effects of the fetus, carcinogenicity, mutagenicity etc.
- (g) Therapeutic potency and efficacy.
- (h) Toxicity and poisoning.

An initial issue of Birendra Hospital formulary (BHF) was published a few years ago. The hospital

formulary published in 2004 is the improved one. It covers the extensive list of medicines needed for the hospital. Few of the information of the drug molecules like dosage forms, strengths and formulation are included in the recent edition. It is in sections, which are system wise and coding has been done with the help of international guidelines. The codes are such that it cover the system, generics, preparation and strengths that it is available in. This is not a complete one, we need the cooperation of medical professionals for its further improvement and implementation. Implementation of it is a growing issue and a must.