

Pharmaceutical Representative/ Sample Medications

Policy & Procedure SGHC092189

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Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate controlled access of pharmaceutical representatives to the physicians and healthcare providers at the Spring Grove Hospital Center (SGHC), without compromising the integrity of patient care. It also establishes policy on sample medication. A pharmaceutical representative is any salesperson, representative, or other employee of drug manufacturers, drug distributors, suppliers, and drug wholesalers.

Policy

Pharmaceutical representatives are required to register with the office of the Director of Pharmacy on their first visit to the facility. Subsequent to that, they must sign in at the pharmacy department and obtain a badge whenever they visit the facility. The use of sample medication is not permitted at Spring Grove Hospital Center.

Procedure

1. The pharmaceutical representative must register with the office of the Director of Pharmacy upon their first visit to Spring Grove Hospital Center. The representative must sign in and obtain a badge on all subsequent visits to the hospital. Each pharmaceutical company is allowed one visit to SGHC grounds per month.
2. In order to comply with HIPAA guidelines and patient privacy laws, pharmaceutical representatives are NOT allowed, any time, onto units in which patients reside or where patient information may exist, including conference rooms, nursing stations, and offices within a locked patient unit.
3. Sample medication is not permitted to be used on Spring Grove Hospital patients. However, the representative may supply the physician with medication for his private use. This transaction is to be done in a controlled environment between the representative and the physician so that these medications are not accessible to Spring Grove Hospital Center patients.
4. The Pharmaceutical Representative may invite physicians to meet off hospital grounds to attend lunches or dinners programs.
5. The SGHC formulary is determined by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and the formulary system is utilized for all medications administered to patients in the BHA/ MDH State of Maryland Hospital System. Medical and pharmacy staff may request that a drug be considered for formulary inclusion. At no time are pharmaceutical representatives at liberty to discuss non-formulary medications with SGHC staff.
6. Drug company product literature and product information is NOT to be distributed throughout patient occupied areas.
7. Any problems encountered with pharmaceutical representatives should be reported to the Director of Pharmacy. Any representative who violates the above policies, who provides false or misleading information, or in any way conducts themselves in a manner that is considered to be contrary to acceptable ethical standards or in the interests of SGHC, will have restrictions placed on their activities at the hospital.

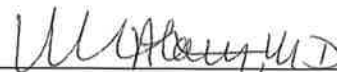


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