

BACKGROUND

Street Medicine at Pitt serves as an aid to the homeless population in Allegheny County providing supplies, including hygiene products, clothing, foods, and medication treatment. The program was inspired by Dr. Jim Wither's work with his Street Medicine. The Street Medicine Institute based in Pittsburgh started in 1992 with a mission to treat persons facing homelessness.

Street Medicine:

- Serves a population of patients facing barriers in accessing healthcare
- Practices with a model that is patient-centered, culturally sensitive, and relationship-focused
- Includes a network of Street Medicine physicians, nurses, and community health works

Pharmacy teams are often not represented in Street Medicine but can play an essential role in combatting barriers to medicine, which are a critical part in health care services.

OBJECTIVE

1. Describe the development of the medication use process for a Street Medicine Team
2. Share guidance for the medication dispensing process including recordkeeping and inventory management
3. Highlight a model street medicine formulary

METHODS

Interview experts in resource limited/safety net settings to describe the dispensing process

Creating pharmacy leadership positions to represent pharmacy on the Street Medicine team

Meet with the providers and pharmacists to discuss the medication formulary and adjust as needed



Surveys for providers at Street Medicine to help devise formulary

Shadow experts in safety-net settings observe the current dispensing process; participate on Street Medicine rounds to observe the workflow and understand the patient population

RESULTS

Dispensing Guide

Medications should be organized as not to create any medication errors with prescription medications separated from over-the-counter products.

The steps to the dispensing process are outlined as follows:

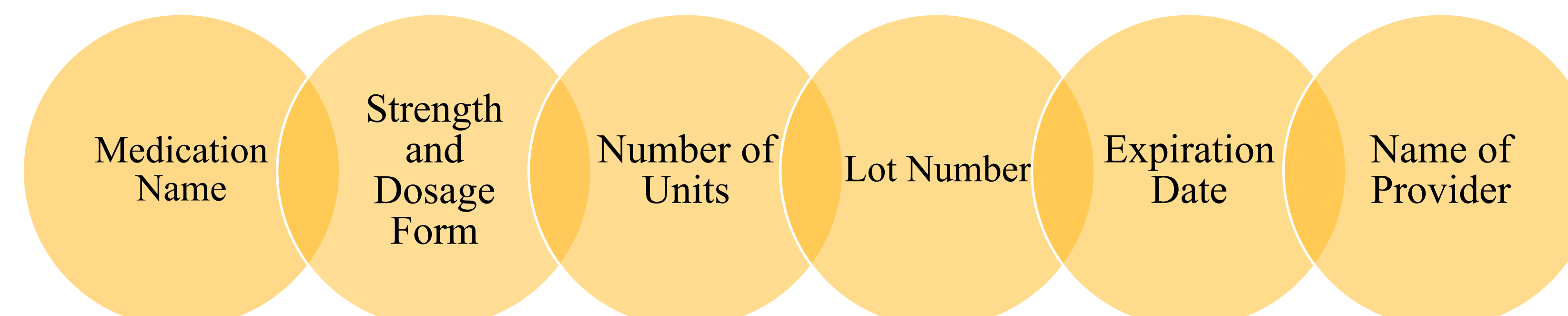
1. This dispensing process applies to both prescription and over the counter medications
2. The practitioner will fill out the label attached to the product as depicted below
3. The practitioner should fill the label in entirety paying close attention to the medication name, dosage form, strength, and quantity on each package. As previously mentioned, the product with the soonest expiration date should be dispensed first.

Model Street Medicine Formulary

Updated Formulary	Par Level Per Med Pack
Antibiotics	
Azithromycin 250 mg #6- 2 for 1 days, 1 for 4 days	2
*Augmentin 875 mg #1#- 1 BID for 7 days	2
Bactrim DS (800/160 mg) #20-1 BID for 10 days	2
*Bactrim DS (800/160 mg) #6- 1 BID for 3 days	2
*Cephalexin 500 mg #14-1 BID for 7 days	2
Doxycycline 100 mg #7 1 tablet once daily	2
Anti-hypertensive Medications	
Amlodipine 5mg #30 once daily	1
Antifungals	
Fluconazole 150 mg #1 once now	1
GI Conditions	
Famotidine 20 mg #30-Bedtime PRN	1
*Loperamide 2 mg #12 2 tablets after first loose bowel, then 1 tablet after each loose bowel movement- no more than 8mg/day for up to 2 days	2
Allergy Medications	
Diphenhydramine 25 mg #30-Bedtime PRN	1
Cetirizine 10mg #30 once daily as needed	1
*Loratadine 10 mg #30 once daily as needed	1
*Saline Nasal Spray 2 sprays in each nostril once daily for allergy symptoms	1
Cold Medications	
Cough Drops #7 As Directed	2
Pulmonary	
Albuterol inhaler 18 g 2 puffs every 4-6 hours PRN	1
Pain Management	
Acetaminophen 500 mg #30 every 4-6 hours PRN	3
Ibuprofen 200 mg #20- 1-2 every 4-6 hours PRN	3
Psychiatric	
*Hydroxyzine 25 mg #30- 1 BID	1
Supplements	
Multivitamin #30 once daily	3
Folic Acid 1 mg #30 once daily	3
Topic Creams	
Hydrocortisone 1% Cream #30g-BID PRN	1
Clotrimazole 1% cream #30g-BID PRN	1

*Designates newly added medications

Medication Labeling



RESULTS

Inventory

- Formulary categorized by health conditions
- Par levels established
- Medications dispensed recorded weekly
- Outdates/inventory on a monthly basis and shock replenished

Dispensing History

- Attached label on product completed with every dispensed medication
- Dispensing records updated with patient information and records maintained

Invoices

- Records with medication request filled, and filed at the clinic and copy given to Street Medicine

CONCLUSIONS

- Street Medicine at Pitt provides needed services to a population facing homelessness
- The pharmacy team allows for the development of an established formulary and dispensing process
- The pharmacy team process will ensure access to essential medicines including
 - A reliable medication supply in needed quantities
 - Safe and cost-effective therapies
 - Patient counseling at the point of dispensing
- The medication dispensing manual is a guide that may be replicated for other Street Medicine programs
- Pharmacy student leaders will continue to adjust the medication formulary and dispensing process for the Street Medicine team to best fit the patient population

REFERENCES

1. The Street Medicine Institute Story. Street Medicine Institute. 2021. <https://www.streetmedicine.org/our-story>. Accessed 2022 October 3.
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