

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy and Procedure		
Automatic Therapeutic Interchange		
Effective: September 2014	Revised: September 2024	Due for Review: September 2026

POLICY

The Pharmacy Department, in collaboration with the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, establishes guidelines for the selection, dispensing, administering, monitoring, and storing of therapeutic alternatives for certain drug categories.

- A therapeutic alternative is a chemically different drug that is similar in therapeutic efficacy and safety to the drug prescribed.
- The selection of a therapeutic alternate confers a cost saving to the medical institution, enhances individual safety by standardization, and lessens the environmental impact of pharmaceutical waste.
- The P&T Committee is responsible for approving drugs included in the Hospital’s Therapeutic Interchange Program.
- A complete list of medications, doses, frequencies, and route of administration approved for automatic therapeutic interchange must be provided to all medical, nursing and if applicable, other staff.
- The prescriber may prohibit automatic therapeutic interchange by including “Do Not Interchange” or similar wording after the order.

PROCEDURE

The Pharmacist will automatically dispense the available therapeutic alternative of prescribed drug according to the pre-approved guidelines. No medication (including dose, frequency, and route of administration) can be automatically interchanged without the approval of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. Below are the approved equivalencies as approved by the committee.


<u>Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Automatic Substitution</u>		
Bolded Item is Equivalent Substitute		
Equivalent Drugs	Equivalent Doses	Equivalent Frequencies
Ace Inhibitor		
Benazepril (Lotensin)	5mg 10mg	
Captopril (Capoten)	25mg 50mg	
Quinapril (Accupril)	5mg 10mg	
Enalapril (Vasotec)	2.5mg 5mg	
Ramipril (Altace)	1.25mg 2.5mg	
Fosinopril (Monpril)	5mg 10mg	
Trandolapril (Mavik)	1mg 2mg	
Moexipril (Univasc)	3.75mg 7.5mg	

Lisinopril (Prinivil, Zestril)	5mg	10mg	
Angiotensin II Receptor Blocker			
Valsartan (Diovan)	40mg	80mg	
Irbesartan (Avapro)	75mg	150mg	
Olmesartan (Benicar)	10mg	20mg	
Candesartan (Atacand)	8mg	16mg	
Telmisartan (Micardis)	20mg	40mg	
Losartan (Cozaar)	25mg	50mg	
Calcium Supplement			
All Calcium supplements Calcium Carbonate (1250mg, 500mg elemental Calcium)	500mg		
All Calcium w/Vitamin D supplements Calcium Carbonate w/Vitamin D (1250mg/200units, 500mg elemental calcium)	500mg/200 units		
Corticosteroid, Nasal			
Beclomethasone	42mcg		1-2 Bid
Budesonide	32mcg		1-4 Daily
Flunisolide	0.025%		2-4 Bid – Tid
Mometasone	50mcg		2 Daily
Triamcinolone	55mcg		2 Daily
Fluticasone	50mcg		2 Daily / 1 Bid
H-1 Antagonist			
Cetirizine (Zyrtec)	10mg		Daily
Desloratadine (Clarinx)	5mg		Daily
Loratadine (Claritin)	10mg		Daily
Fexofenadine (Allegra)	60mg	180mg	Bid Daily
H-2 Antagonist (PO)			
Nizatidine (Axid)	150mg	300mg	Bid HS Daily
Famotidine (Pepcid)	20mg	40mg	Bid HS Daily
Proton Pump Inhibitor			
Esomeprazole (Nexium)	20mg	40mg	Every AM @ 7:30
Lansoprazole (Prevacid)	15mg	30mg	Every AM @ 7:30
Omeprazole (Prilosec)	20mg	40mg	Every AM @ 7:30
Rabeprazole (Aciphex)	20mg		Every AM @ 7:30
Pantoprazole (Protonix)	20mg	40mg	Every AM @ 7:30
Statin			
Fluvastatin (Lescol)	80mg		HS

Lovastatin (Mevacor)	40mg	PM Meal (Bedtime)
Pravastatin (Pravachol)	40mg	HS
Rosuvastatin (Crestor)	5mg	HS
Simvastatin (Zocor)	20mg (max 40mg)	HS
Atorvastatin (Lipitor)	10mg	HS

References

Joint Commission M.M. 2.01.01

Approved by	Signature	Date
Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Mental Health	 <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Emily Hawes</i> C50275615A62462...</p>	9/25/2024