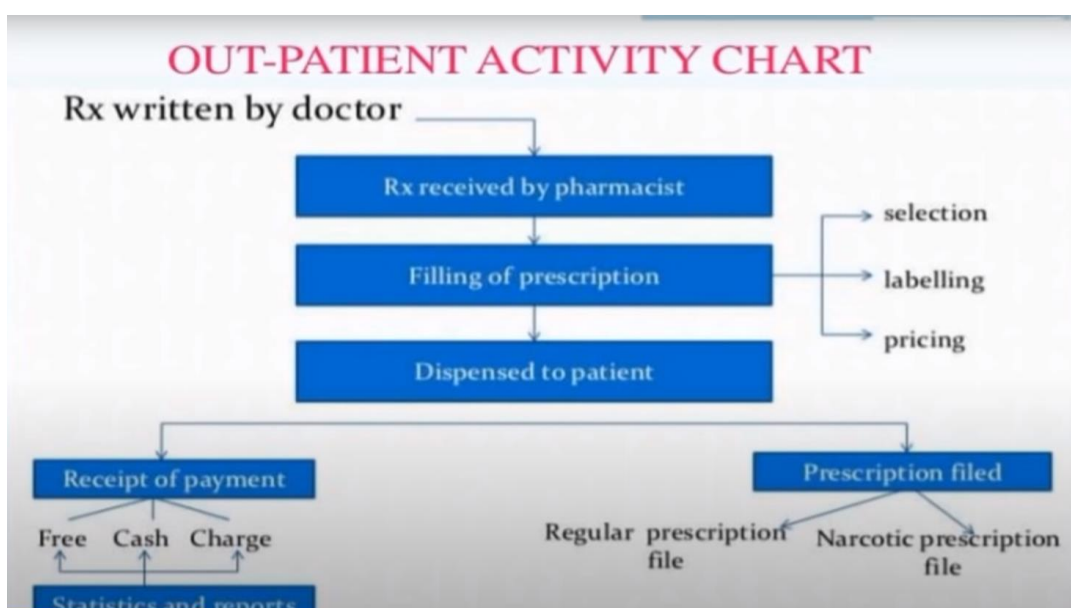


Drug distribution is one of the basic service provided by the hospital pharmacy

Drug distribution system falls in to 3 categories

- 1) Ward – controlled system
- 2) Pharmacy controlled imprest based system
- 3) Pharmacy controlled patient issue system



IN – PATIENT SERVICES

- The drug distribution to the inpatient department can be carried out from the outpatient dispensing area.
- The staff involved in dispensing the drugs for outpatient can dispense drugs for inpatients too.
- If the work load seems to be heavy then additional personnel can be employed.



1) INDIVIDUAL PRESCRIPTION ORDER SYSTEM

- This system is mainly used in small or private hospitals because of its economic consideration and reduced manpower requirements

ADVANTAGES:

- All medication orders are directly reviewed by pharmacist
- It provides closer liaison among pharmacist, physician , nurse and the patient
- It provides closer control of inventory

DISADVANTAGES:

- There may be possible delay in obtaining the required medications for administration to the patient
- Increase in the cost to the patient



2) COMPLETE FLOOR STOCK SYSTEM

- Drugs are stored at the nursing station and are administered by a nurse according to the chart order of the physician
- Only commonly used drugs are stocked on the floor

ADVANTAGES:

- The drugs are readily available for administration
- Minimum return of drugs
- Reduced in-patient prescription orders
- Reduction in number of pharmacy personnel required

DISADVANTAGES:

- Increase in chance of medication errors
- Increase in drug inventory
- Increase chances of drug deterioration due to lack of proper storage facilities and due to unnoticed drug degradation
- Increased workload on nurses



Drugs on the nursing station are known as Floor Stock Drugs



A) DISPENSING OF CHARGE FLOOR STOCK DRUGS

- These are drugs for which patient is charged for every single dose administered to him
- Selection of these drugs is made by PTC
- Charge floor stock drugs are stored at various nursing stations
- An envelope is used to dispense such drugs

B) DISPENSING OF NON-CHARGE FLOOR STOCK DRUGS

- These are medicaments placed at the nursing station for the use of all patients on the floor
- Drug basket method



MOBILE DISPENSARY UNIT

- It is a specially constructed stainless steel truck
- It measures 60 inches high, 48 inches wide and 25 inches deep



3) COMBINATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL DRUG ORDER AND FLOOR STOCK SYSTEM

It is a type of drug distribution system that uses individual prescription or medication order system as their primary means of dispensing but also utilize a limited floor stock

4) UNIT DOSE DISPENSING

Unit dose medication is defined as those medications which are ordered, packaged, handled, administered and charged in multiples of single doses units containing predetermined amount of drugs or supply sufficient for one regular dose, application or use.

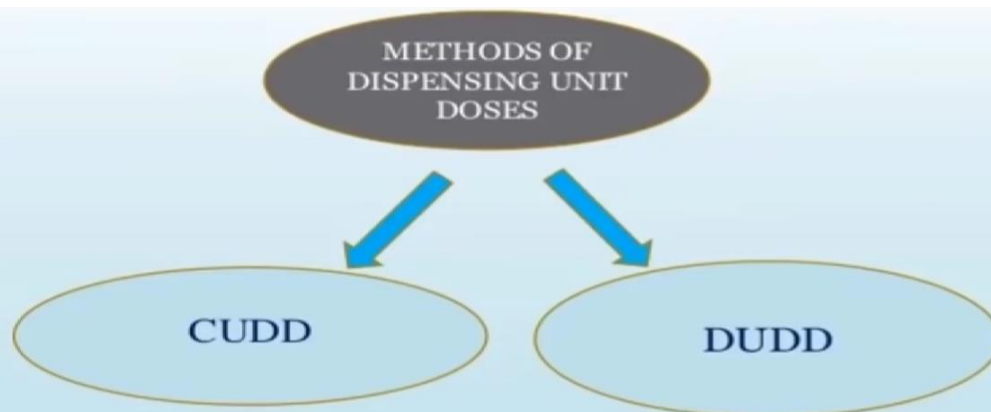


ADVANTAGES

- Patient receives improved services and are charged for only those doses which are administered
- Nurses get more time for direct patient care
- Medication errors are reduced
- More space is available in nursing station by eliminating bulky floor stock
- It eliminates wastage of drug and pilferage

DISADVANTAGES

- It requires more space since packaging material increases the bulk of the dosage forms
- It requires increased number of skilled personnel in the pharmacy
- The cost of medication is increased to the patient due to increased handling charges



1. CENTRALISED UNIT DOSE DRUG DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

- All in-patient drugs are dispensed in unit doses and all the drugs are stored in central area of the pharmacy and dispensed at the time the dose is to be given to the patient
- To operate the system, delivery devices such as medication carts or pneumatic tubes are required

2. DECENTRALISED UNIT DOSE DRUG DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

- This operates through small satellite pharmacies located on each floor of the hospital
- The main pharmacy is for procurement, storage, manufacturing and packing

PROCEDURE:

- Patient profile card is prepared upon admission to the hospital
- Prescriptions are sent directly to the pharmacists

- Pharmacists check the medication orders
- Junior pharmacists pick medication order and place drugs in cart
- Pharmacist check cart prior to release
- The nurse administers the drugs and make the entry in their records
- Upon return to the pharmacy the cart is rechecked

DISPENSING OF CONTROLLED DRUGS:

- These drugs should be kept under lock and key
- A separate register should be maintained to register them

PROCEDURE:

- Medical superintendent is overall responsible for handling of controlled drugs.
- Chief pharmacist procures, stores and dispenses the drugs



- Prescription of narcotic drugs under Narcotics and psychotropic substances act 1985 must include following information

- a) Patient's full name
- b) Address
- c) Date
- d) Name and strength of drug
- e) Quantity of drug
- f) Signature of prescriber
- g) Dose and route of administration



- If the required drug is not in the stock, the complete controlled drug prescription must be written on hospital prescription blank form by registered medical practitioner and signed
- Delivery of narcotic drugs from pharmacy to wards should be carried out by a reliable person
- After dispensing, nurses resume responsibility for administration, control and auditing of the inventory
- If patient refuses or doctor cancels any dose, nurse should destroy the drug in a sink and record "Refused by patient" or "Cancelled by doctor"

