Opened single and multidose vials shall be kept for a specific length of time prior to their disposal.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To reduce the likelihood of medication vials being the source of nosocomial infections.

(C) Procedure

1. Inpatient Nursing Units and Pharmacy:

Pharmacy will supply all inpatient nursing units with single-use vials whenever possible. Any single-use vial must be discarded immediately after use. Multiple-use vials with preservatives need to be initialed by the personnel opening the packaging and labeled with a discard date of 28 days after the date of opening, unless another date is indicated in manufacturer packaging or CDC recommendations (Immunization Program, etc). Any multiple dose vial that has been previously opened should be inspected visually for signs of contamination.

Multi-dose self injecting pens such as insulin are dispensed and administered to a single patient.

2. Outpatient Nursing Units:

Pharmacy will supply all outpatient nursing units with single-use vials whenever possible. Any single-use vial must be discarded immediately after use. Multiple-use vials with preservatives need to be initialed by the personnel opening the packaging and labeled with a discard date of 28 days after the date of opening, unless another date is indicated in manufacturer packaging or CDC recommendations (Immunization Program, etc). Any multiple dose vial that has been previously opened should be inspected visually for signs of contamination.

Reference: USP 797 guidelines Copyright 2008