

## **Department of Pharmacy Policy**

CURRENT AS OF: 8/08

**SUBJECT:** Use of Herbal or Botanical Products and Dietary Supplements

**SEE ALSO:**

**PH03-04** Formulary System; **HP10-03** Patient Personal Effects and Valuables; **PH03-01**, Medication Orders; **PH03-14**, Administering and Charting of Medications **PH04-03** Medications Brought into the Hospital by Patients; **NU08-01** Patient Admission, Transfer and Discharge; **HP02-14** Discharge Medication Planning, Education and Procurement

**BACKGROUND:**

The use of herbal or botanical products and dietary supplements is rising. Some forms of herbal or botanical products and dietary supplements can interfere or interact with medical therapies rendering medical treatments less effective and may place the patient at potential risk.

Herbal or botanical products and dietary supplements are not routinely supplied by UK Hospital Pharmacy. UK Hospital does not endorse the use of herbal or botanical products and dietary supplements not recognized by well established medical evidence.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Upon admission, the patient is asked by the health care practitioner (e.g., nurse, pharmacist, and physician) about the use of herbal or botanical products and dietary supplements. The patient's response is documented on the Medication Reconciliation Database form.
2. The patient's own supply of herbal or botanical products and dietary supplements may not be taken without a physician's order. The order must include the name, strength, dose and frequency to be administered. Simply ordering, "Patient may take own supply" is not considered a legitimate order.
3. A licensed independent practitioner is responsible to determine the safety and efficacy and dosage of each ordered product in consultation with a pharmacist or registered dietitian, as appropriate. If approved for use, the patient will provide their own supply. A pharmacist will identify the patient's drug supply per policy (PH04-03). Only in unique situations will the pharmacy obtain and dispense the medication.
4. The order for the herbal or botanical product/dietary supplement shall be entered into the patient's pharmacy profile. The order must be

manually screened by the entering pharmacist for drug interactions, duplications, dosage, etc. prior to therapy initiation and as new orders are entered.

5. Information regarding significant drug interactions will be provided to the patient upon discharge.

Approved: _____	Authorized: _____
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