Department of Health
Board of Pharmacy

Automated Medication Systems
(LAC 46:LIII.1217 and 1509)

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (R.S. 49:950 et seq.) and the Pharmacy Practice Act (R.S. 37:1161 et seq.), the Board of Pharmacy amended §1217 and §1509 of its rules relative to Automated Medication Systems (AMS). The Rule changes in §1217 and §1509.B remove references to "human intervention" due to the ambiguity of phrase which has led to different interpretations. The Rule changes in §1217 also describe the requirements of stocking and restocking of an AMS, differentiating between pharmacies that employ electronic product verification procedures and those that do not, and adds the accountability of the pharmacist-in-charge for the accuracy of all drug distribution activities. This Rule is hereby adopted on the day of promulgation.

Title 46
PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS
Part LIII. Pharmacists
Chapter 12. Automated Medication Systems
§1217. Stocking and Restocking; Electronic Product Verification

A. In the absence of electronic product verification procedures as described within this Section, the stocking and restocking of medications and devices within an automated medication system shall be performed by a pharmacist, or in the alternative, a pharmacy intern, pharmacy technician, or pharmacy technician candidate under the supervision of a pharmacist.

B. When the pharmacy employs electronic product verification procedures as described within this Section, the stocking and restocking of medications and devices within an automated medication system may be performed by a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, pharmacy technician, or pharmacy technician candidate.

1. A bar code or other electronic verification shall be utilized to assure the correct selection of drugs to be placed into an automated medication system.

2. The use of a bar code or other electronic verification shall require an initial quality assurance validation followed by ongoing quality assurance reviews at intervals no greater than 90 days since the previous review, all conducted by a pharmacist.

C. The pharmacist-in-charge remains accountable to the board for the accuracy of all drug distribution activities.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1182(A).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 26:1271 (June 2000) effective July 1, 2000, amended LR 41:1488 (August 2015), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Pharmacy, LR 47:243 (February 2021), amended LR 50:1826 (December 2024).

Chapter 15. Hospital Pharmacy
§1509. Drug Distribution Control

A. - A.3.e.iii. …

B. Automated Medication Systems. A hospital pharmacy may use one or more automated medication systems in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 12 of this Part.

1. When the pharmacy uses an electronic product verification process as described in Section 1217 of this Part, the pharmacist-in-charge may elect to forego manual checks of drug products selected in that manner, provided however, that such selection by the pharmacist-in-charge shall require an initial quality assurance validation followed by an ongoing quality review at intervals no greater than 90 days since the previous review, all conducted by a pharmacist.

2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1182.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 29:2093 (October 2003), effective January 1, 2004, amended LR 40:2257 (November 2014), effective January 1, 2015, LR 41:1488 (August 2015), amended by Department of Health, Board of Pharmacy, LR 46:583 (April 2020), amended LR 50:1826 (December 2024).

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