

**FLOYD MEDICAL CENTER
 POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL
 PATIENT CARE SERVICES**



TITLE: Therapeutic Interchange	Policy No.: PCS-06-027
Purpose: To establish a protocol for the therapeutic interchange of approved drug products so as to provide high quality drug therapy at the lowest possible cost to the patient and the organization.	Developed Date: 10/94 Review Date: 2/09, 4/15, 6/18 Revised Date: 4/04, 5/07, 12/10, 1/13 Review Responsibility: Director of Pharmacy; Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator; Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee; Executive VP Chief of Patient Services/CNO, Nursing Leadership, Executive Committee of the Medical Staff
Reference Standards: MM 02.01.01	

Policy:

When an order for a drug that is on a formulary interchange list is received in the Pharmacy, the medication currently in stock within the interchange list will be dispensed.

Definition of Therapeutic Interchange: the interchange of one drug product with another which differs in composition but is considered to have very similar pharmacological and therapeutic activities in accordance with written guidelines or protocols previously established and approved (Oregon Senate Bill 124, 1987).

1. When the Pharmacist receives an order for a drug on a formulary exchange list, the stock medication for the ordered drug will be dispensed.
2. If the stock drug is a distinctly different chemical entity, which requires a dosage or interval adjustment, the Pharmacist will place an order for the formulary medication and it will be routed to the physician's inbox for signature.
3. Once a therapeutic interchange has been in effect for a period of 3 months, the Pharmacy will make the substitution without routing the order for the physician to sign. In place of routing the order to the physician, the Pharmacist will place a notation to appear on the eMAR as follows: "Therapeutically interchanged for: _____."
4. The physician will sign the interchanged order within the hospital's established timeframe.
5. A physician may write "Dispense as Written" to override the therapeutic interchange.