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Procedure for the Provision of Take Home Medication (TTH's) from Maternity Wards UHW by Midwives.

Introduction:

Maternity Wards UHW have a high turnover of patients, many of whom require simple analgesics, oral iron and thromboprophylaxis prior to discharge home. The average length of admission is often made longer by the wait for these medications from Pharmacy.

Objectives

Maternity wards currently have a limited TTH stock available for out of hours use. An extended service for the supply over a 24 hour period, 7 days a week, would reduce the length of many admissions, improving patient experience and increasing bed capacity and flow.

Scope

This procedure applies to all of our staff in all locations including those with honorary contracts.

Area for Circulation:

UHB Secondary Care – Maternity Wards, Obs/Gynae Directorate

Equality Health Impact Assessment	An Equality Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) has been completed.
Documents to read alongside this Procedure	Policy for the Safe Administration of Medicines. Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards for Medicines Management.
Approved by	Safe Medication Practice Group. Quality and Safety Group

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Summary of reviews/amendments

Version Number	Date of Review Approved	Date Published	Summary of Amendments
1	05/10/2020	05/10/2020	Over-labelled drug list amended

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2 Introduction

Maternity Wards UHW have a high turnover of patients, many of whom require simple analgesics, oral iron and thromboprophylaxis prior to discharge home. The average length of admission is often made longer by the wait for these medications from Pharmacy. Maternity wards currently have a limited TTH stock available for out of hours use. An extended service for the supply over a 24 hour period, 7 days a week, would reduce the length of many admissions, improving patient experience and increasing bed capacity and flow.

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3 Storage of TTH medication packs.

The following medications packs will be stored in a locked drugs cabinet which is separate from all the other ward medications. The key will be kept on the shift leaders keys, with master copies available in pharmacy. Only these medications are available for this provision, any additional medications must be supplied through pharmacy.

Amoxicillin 500mg capsules

Canesten Pessary 500mg

Cefalexin 500mg capsules

Co-amoxiclav 375mg and 625mg tablets

Diclofenac 50mg enteric coated tablets

Enoxaparin injection 40mg

Enoxaparin injection 60mg

Erythromycin 250mg and 500mg tablets

Ferrous Sulfate 200mg tablets

Fybrogel sachets

Gavison Advance

Lactulose

Metronidazole 400mg tablets

Paracetamol 500mg tablets (for patients weighing more than 50Kg only).

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4 Prescribing and dispensing medicines

4.1 Women on the Obstetric assessment Unit:

4.1.1 Prescription

The prescription must be written and signed and dated by the prescriber. The drug names should be clearly written with the dosage, frequency, drug form and duration of treatment.

4.1.2 Dispensing of charted and TTH medication

Two midwives will dispense and check the medication (from designated drugs cabinet) prescribed on the TTH (see checking procedure below).

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4.2 Women on delivery suite/ first floor maternity:

4.2.1 Prescription

As soon as possible after delivery, the inpatient chart and the TTH must be written, signed and dated by the prescriber.

The Green card is then written by a midwife.

(The drug names should be clearly written with the frequency and duration of treatment).

4.2.2 Dispensing of charted and TTH medication

On Delivery suite two midwives will select and check (see checking procedure below) the medication against the TTH prescription and both sign the Green card.

The medication is then placed in the patients' locker. (This medication will be used for in-patient medication in addition to being used on discharge for the TTH).

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On transfer to the Maternity ward, the medication is transferred from the patients' locker on Delivery Suite to the patients' locker on Maternity and will again be checked by two midwives against the TTH (see checking procedure below) and again the midwives sign the Green card.

On discharge the midwife removes the drugs from the patients' locker and uses for the TTH prescription. Again, two midwives will check the medication against the TTH. (It will not be necessary to give any extra supply of analgesics, as the patient can obtain further supplies over the counter).

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5 Checking Procedure:

Two registered midwives/nurses will both check the following:

- Check prescription/chart is correctly written, signed and dated by prescriber.
- Check patients' weight.
- Check patients' allergies.
- When selecting drug from locked cupboard, check drug name, form, strength and expiry date.
- Ensure the packaging is intact and contains the correct contents.
- Write name of the patient and date on the over labelled drug pack.
- If the drug is Paracetamol apply name and address label.
- (If the medication has not got a patient specific label, it should not be used unless it is Paracetamol as above).
- On discharge both registered staff sign and date the TTH prescription form. (The top copy of completed TTH will be collected by pharmacy.)
- Use the Green card system (for those on delivery suite/ first floor) to assess whether the patient is able to self medicate (after 48 hours only).
- Check with the patient that they understand how to take, store safely and dispose of the medication.
- If prescribed antibiotics ensure the patient understands the importance of taking the whole course.

Professional discretion should remain the overriding factor in assessing suitability of medicines. You must contact the prescriber or another authorised prescriber without delay where contraindications to the prescribed medicine are discovered, where the patient develops a reaction to the medicine, or where assessment of the patient indicates that the medicine is no longer suitable.

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