Verification of Patient's Own Medications (POM)

If POMs are to be administered by Health PEI staff during the patient's stay or outpatient visit, a healthcare provider must verify the POMs to determine if they meet the following requirements.

1. The medication is available in a dosage form and strength that allows the prescribed dose to be administered.
2. **Note:** The directions on the label may not match the dose ordered in facility. Follow the directions in the current order/Medication Administration Record.

3. Labelling:
    a. **Prescription:** The container is clearly labeled with the patient's name, drug name, drug strength, date of dispensing, directions, name and address of the community pharmacy, and has not exceeded the expiry date.
        i. If the drug does not have an expiry date, the POM may be used if dispensed within the last 3 months.
    b. **Non-prescription:** The container is clearly labeled with the drug name, drug strength, manufacturer, and has not exceeded the expiry date.
    Note: patient identification label must be added to the container/package.

4. The drug appearance is acceptable:
    a. The container is intact and clean.
    b. Solid oral dosage forms are whole and without signs of deterioration (e.g., chips in tablets or color changes).
        i. Tablets that have been evenly split to provide the correct dosage strength may be used.
    c. Eye and ear products (drops or ointment) have been opened less than 30 days or as directed by the manufacturer.
        i. If the product does not already have a "Discard after" date, and the date opened is known, label it with a "Discard after" date if known, or 30 days from date dispensed, whichever is earliest.

5. The drug can be identified:
    a. Solid oral dosage forms can be checked against manufacturer's pictures and description (pill identifier tool in e-therapeutics).
        i. Pharmacy can be contacted to assist with identification.
    b. Multi-dose medications usually have the original manufacturer's label on the product.
    c. Bottles must not contain more than one medication.
    d. Single or multiple medications may be used from blister packs/cards/strips that contain multiple medications in one opening, provided they meet all the criteria in Appendix A and:
        i. The blister pack/card/strips has been prepared, sealed, and labeled by a community pharmacy.
        ii. There are no controlled drugs in the blister pack/strips.
        iii. Unused drugs from the opened blister pack/strips are destroyed.

6. The drug has been stored properly:
    a. The patient confirms that to the best of their knowledge, the medications have been stored according to the manufacturer's recommendations (e.g. refrigerated, protected from freezing and extreme heat, or protected from light).