

Safer Practice Notice

Date: May 8, 2019

Topic: Medication Stability

Situation:

- Intravenous Meropenem was ordered daily for 6 weeks for a client in Home Care
- IV Meropenem was infused on this client daily for a week with the fluid at room temperature before it was noticed that the bag should have been on ice and the ice changed every 8 hours.

Background:

- Instructions on the pump pharmaceutical data sheets indicate:
- Meropenem **STABILITY:** 24 hours refrigerated. Place bag in insulated pouch with frozen ice pack on each side of bag. Change ice pack every 8 hours

Assessment:

- Staff identified that insulated pouches and ice packs were not readily available for staff to access.
- It was identified that staff were not always reviewing the stability section of the data sheets prior to administration.
- Once incident was noticed it was immediately reported to supervisor, manager, pharmacy and ordering physician.
- Client and family were made aware of the mistake.
- Physician ordered follow up and it was determined there was no harm done to client.
- An incident report was completed

Recommendation:

- Ensure staff are aware of the importance of checking the stability of all medications they are administering
- Ensure staff who are mixing the medication daily check the data sheet/monograph
- Ensure there is access to the appropriate supplies required to keep medications on ice when necessary
- Offer client and family education regarding medication stability as needed
- Have special instructions for medications in bold or highlighted within the monographs/data sheets

For more information please contact:

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