

WAC 246-873-050 Absence of a pharmacist. (1) General. Pharmaceutical services shall be available on a 24-hour basis. If round-the-clock services of a pharmacist are not feasible, arrangements shall be made in advance by the director of pharmacy to provide reasonable assurance of pharmaceutical services.

(2) Access to the pharmacy. Whenever a drug is required to treat an immediate need and not available from floor stock when the pharmacy is closed, the drug may be obtained from the pharmacy by a designated registered nurse, who shall be accountable for his/her actions. One registered nurse shall be designated in each hospital shift for removing drugs from the pharmacy.

(a) The director of pharmacy shall establish written policy and recording procedures to assist the registered nurse who may be designated to remove drugs from the pharmacy, when a pharmacist is not present, in accordance with Washington State Pharmacy Practice Act, RCW 18.64.255(2), which states that the director of pharmacy and the hospital be involved in designating the nurse.

(b) The stock container of the drug or similar unit dose package of the drug removed shall be left with a copy of the order of the authorized practitioner to be checked by a pharmacist, when the pharmacy reopens, or as soon as is practicable.

(c) Only a sufficient quantity of drugs shall be removed in order to sustain the patient until the pharmacy opens.

(d) All drugs removed shall be completely labeled in accordance with written policy and procedures, taking into account state and federal rules and regulations and current standards.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and chapter 18.64A RCW. WSR 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-873-050, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005(11). WSR 81-16-036 (Order 162), § 360-17-050, filed 7/29/81.]