N 727: 1200-B-6-.06(5)(b) Basic Services

(6) Pharmaceutical Services.

(b) All internal and external medications and preparations intended for human use shall be stored separately. They shall be properly stored in medicine compartments, including cabinets on wheels, or drug rooms.

This Rule is not met as evidenced by:
Type C Pending Penalty #7

Tennessee Code Annotated 68-11-804(c)(7):
All internal and external medications and preparations intended for human use shall be stored separately. They shall be properly stored in medicine compartments, including cabinets on wheels, or drug rooms. Such cabinets or drug rooms shall be kept securely locked when not in use, and the key must be in the possession of the supervising nurse or other authorized persons then on duty.

Based on policy review, observation and interview, it was determined the facility failed to ensure proper storage of medications by not removing expired medications from 2 of 8 (east hall medication room and north hall medication cart) medication storage areas.

The findings included:

1. Review of the facility’s "LTC [Long Term Care] Facility’s Pharmacy Services and Procedures Manual 5.3 Storage and Expiration Dating of Drugs..." policy documented, "...13. The facility should destroy or return all discontinued, outdated/expired, or deteriorated drugs... in accordance with Pharmacy return/destruction guidelines..."

The facility will destroy or return all discounted, outdated/expired drugs or biological in accordance with pharmacy return/destruction guidelines.

1. Expired Prevacid, expired culture tubes, expired glucose solution and expired foam tipped sterile swab were destroyed.
2. All expired medications, lab supplies and biologicals have been removed and destroyed.
3. Audits by DON/UM/RN supervisors will be done weekly for outdated/expired medications, lab supplies and biologicals X 3 months and removed and destroyed.
4. Results of audits will be presented to the QA committee monthly X 3 months so to assess effectiveness of plan.
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2. Observations in the east hall medication room on 4/12/12 at 8:52 AM, revealed Pravacid 24 hour (hr) 15 milligrams (mg) - 1 bottle of 14 capsules with an expiration date of 9/2011.

   During an interview in the east hall medication room on 4/12/12 at 8:52 AM, Nurse #2 stated, "Yes, it's [Pravacid] expired."

3. Observations of the north hall medication cart revealed Glucose control solution was stored past the expiration date of 12/19/11.

   During an interview at the north hall nurses' station on 4/12/12 at 9:22 AM, Nurse #1 stated, "We go by the expiration on the box."

   During an interview in the chapel on 4/12/12 at 9:22 AM, Nurse #1 reviewed the manufacturers insert for expiration of glucose solution and stated, "90 days, I'll get rid of that one."

4. During an interview in the chapel on 4/12/12 at 10:00 AM, the Director of Nursing (DON) was asked what her expectations of the staff was for expired medications. The DON stated, "...Get rid of it [expired items]. ..."