Providence
HEALTH CARE

How you want to be treated.

Automated Unit Dose

Frequently Asked Questions #3

Disposing of AUD packages - what goes where?

- **'Header' packages & empty baggies**: these empty pouches are labeled with **confidential client identifiers**. Once medication checks are complete and medication is administered, these headers can be stored in a location on or near your med cart until there is sufficient amount for efficient disposal in the grey Shred-It console. They should be segregated in a brown paper bag or a Ziploc bag prior to disposal into the console (the contents of the Shred-It bins will then get sorted at the depot). Do not throw these into the pharmacy 'return bin'.

- **Empty AUD medication strips/pouches** (no identifiers): are placed in the in the **regular garbage**.

- **Unused AUD medication:** these packages or strips are placed in the pharmacy 'return bin'.

If I drop a medication on the floor while opening the AUD strip, can I use another dose found later in the strip?

- No. Since AUD provides 'just-in-time' medication, only the number of doses needed will be in the strip. A dose must be re-ordered if dropped on the floor. An MOM must be sent and **if** it is needed 'STAT', this must be stated in the refill request. Do not use the later dose - separating the strip can lead to confusion, and there will be no dose available when it is required at the later time!

If my patient is transferred within acute care, should I send the AUD strip with them?

- Yes, patient-specific and AUD medications can be sent with the patient when they are transferred between MSJ, SPH, HF Rehab and TMH. To obtain medications that are not sent with patient on transfer, the receiving nurse can send an MOM to Pharmacy.

What if my patient is on a medication that is administered TID, but it is discontinued in the morning – do I remove all three of the AUD packages from the entire strip?

- No, remove only packages from the part of the strip that you are administering. The purpose of the strip is to keep the medications sorted by administration time and attached to the header package for safety. As you move down the strip and check the medications against the MAR, you will remove any packages that are no longer ordered, and return them to pharmacy.