

## Section 8 – Disposal of Medicines

Medicines intended for disposal must be stored securely at all times.

1. **Cytotoxic Medicines** - please contact pharmacy for advice.
2. **Medicines That Require Refrigeration** and which are still in date – please contact pharmacy for advice.
3. **Infusions** - including controlled drugs.
  - 3.1 If the infusion has been attached to a patient, it is classified as clinical waste and is disposed on the ward via the clinical waste stream.
  - 3.2 If the infusion has not been attached to a patient, it is disposed on the ward via the pharmaceutical waste bin (Blue Lid).
4. **Ward/Department Stock Medicines**
  - 4.1 **Part used ampoules** (except cytotoxic medicines) should be disposed on the ward via the pharmaceutical waste bin (Blue Lid)
  - 4.2 **Part used ampoules of controlled drugs** should be rendered irretrievable, this is easiest done by disposing of them into the pharmaceutical waste bin (Blue Lid)
  - 4.3 **Expired** items (except controlled drugs or cytotoxic medicines) should be disposed on the ward via the pharmaceutical waste bin (Blue Lid)
  - 4.4 **Medicines that are in date but no longer required** - should be returned to pharmacy. This must be arranged in consultation with pharmacy. The registered nurse in charge should inform the ward pharmacy assistant /pharmacy technician if stock items are no longer required so that the ward/department stock list can be updated.

A full record is made in the returns book of all medicines being returned.
  - 4.5 **Medicines which are seldom used but which must be stocked for emergencies** should be returned to pharmacy just before they expire. This must be arranged in consultation with pharmacy to ensure that replacement stock is available.

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- 4.6 **Medicines that were brought into hospital by a patient.** See Section 7 paragraphs 7 and 8
  
5. **Community Psychiatric Nurses.** All out-of-date medicines and any medicines no longer required should be returned to the supplying pharmacy, with appropriate security precautions.
  
6. **Community Midwives.** Medicines supplied to a patient for a home delivery should be returned to the supplying pharmacy for disposal.