

An HSA Microlearning Session Summary
in partnership with Oregon Office of Rural Health.

Medication Handling

SAFE PRACTICES. HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES.

Our goal is to help Rural Health Clinics build safe, consistent medication practices—so medications are stored, handled, administered, and documented appropriately every day.



STORE IT SAFELY

- Follow manufacturer requirements for temperature, light, moisture, and storage.
- Keep medications secure from unauthorized access.
- Monitor and document required temperatures.
- Routinely check expiration and beyond-use dates.
- Keep medication storage areas clean and organized.



QUICK TIP: Know who is responsible for medication storage areas, emergency kits, pre-made kits, and other medication supplies. RHC policies must address the storage, handling, and administration of medications and biologicals.



HANDLE IT CORRECTLY

- Follow manufacturer instructions and use aseptic technique.
- Prevent cross-contamination during preparation and administration.
- Single-dose vial? Discard after use.
- Multi-dose vial? Date when opened and follow the applicable beyond-use date.
- If storage conditions or sterility are in question—discard it.
- Follow the 5 Rights: right patient, medication, dose, route, and time.



STRENGTHEN READINESS

Common deficiencies include:

- Expired medications
- Improper storage or temperature monitoring
- Medications not appropriately secured
- Single-dose vials saved after use
- Multi-dose vials without an open date
- Cross-contamination concerns
- Incomplete documentation
- Staff unable to explain clinic procedures

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Store it right.
Secure it.
Check the date.

Keep it clean.
Document it.
Make sure your staff know the process.



Medication safety isn't just about passing a survey—it's about creating reliable practices that protect patients every day. Check the date.

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