PURPOSE: Drug-Use Evaluation (DUE) and Medication-Use Evaluation (MUE) are both performance improvement methods that focus on evaluating and improving medication-use processes with the goal of optimal patient outcomes. These evaluations may be applied to a medication, or therapeutic class, disease state or condition, a medication-use process, or specific outcomes. *(The American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists. ASHP Guidelines on Medication-use Evaluation)*

SCOPE: Medical Staff, Pharmacy Staff, Nursing

POLICY:

DUEs and MUEs must be conducted as organizationally authorized programs or processes that are proactive, criteria based, designed and managed by an interdisciplinary team, and systematically carried out. These are conducted as a collaborative effort of prescribers, pharmacists, nurses, and administrators.

PROCEDURE:

1. Establish organizational authority for the DUE/MUE process and identify responsible individuals and groups.
The Pharmacy, Nutrition & Therapeutics Committee will be responsible for the DUE/MUE process and will obtain input from the Medical Staff on potential future DUE/MUEs and report all evaluations findings including associated recommendations to the Medical Staff.

2. Identify potential areas where medication-use can be improved.

3. Set priorities for in-depth analysis of important aspects of medication use.

4. Inform health-care professionals in the practice setting about the objectives and expected benefits of the DUE/MUE process.

5. Establish criteria, guidelines, treatment protocols, and standards of care for specific medications and medication-use processes.

6. Educate health care professionals to promote the use of guidelines, treatment protocols, and standards of care.

7. Establish mechanisms for timely communication among health care professionals.

8. Initiate the use of DUE/MUE criteria, guidelines, treatment protocols, and standards of care in the medication-use process.

9. Collect data and evaluate care in the following ways:

   A. Aggregate data will be evaluated by the PNT Committee.
   B. Individual prescribers’ data will be blinded and evaluated by the PNT Committee.
   C. Individual prescribers’ data will be shared with the applicable Service Medical Director and Chief Medical Officer, as indicated to evaluate ongoing competence.
   D. Individual prescribers will be informed of results of the study and their individual data.

10. Develop and implement plans for improvement of the medication-use process based on DUE/MUE findings, if indicated.

11. Assess the effectiveness of the actions taken and document improvements.

12. Incorporate improvements into guidelines, treatment protocols, and standards of care, when indicated.

13. Regularly assess the effectiveness of the DUE/MUE process itself and make needed improvements.