

# Is Your Department Still JCAHO Compliant?

The new Joint Commission Medication Management Standards MM.4.20, MM.4.30 and MM.4.40 have introduced new levels of quality control and accountability for the preparation and dispensing of medications. These standards apply to any department or area where medications are prepared, mixed, or parceled out into unit dose containers. The way your department prepares and dispenses diagnostic and contrast agents could directly impact your hospital's ability to maintain its JCAHO accreditation.

## When your department prepares iodine-based or other concentrated oral contrast for patient administration:

	Yes	No
Do you currently purchase contrast in unit dose containers or repackage bulk contrast into labeled, individual cases?		
Do you carefully measure the proportions of contrast and flavoring agents when mixing?		
Do you prepare the contrast in a separate, dedicated area within the CT suite?		
Do you label each mixing container appropriately?		
Do you label each cup with the drug name, strength, amount and expiration date before providing it to the patient?		
If preparing contrast doses for multiple patients or for administration by another person, do you label the container with the patient's name, directions for use, and cautionary statements?		
When patient doses are prepared by the pharmacy or a licensed repackager, are all of the above mixing and labeling standards presently being met?		

If you answered "No" to any of these six questions, your department may no longer be in compliance and could receive a **Type 1 Recommendation** if a surprise JCAHO inspection were to occur tomorrow.

## Revised JCAHO Standards for Medication Management<sup>1</sup>, Effective January 1, 2004

"...staff uses appropriate techniques to avoid contamination during medication preparation..."

- Using clean or sterile technique as appropriate
- Maintaining clean, uncluttered, and functionally separate areas for product preparation to minimize the possibility of contamination"

"At a minimum, all medications are labeled with the following:

- Drug name, strength, amount (if not apparent from the container)
- Expiration date when not used in 24 hours"

"When preparing medications for multiple patients or the person preparing the medication is not the person administering the medication, the label also includes the following:

- Patient name
- Directions for use and any cautionary statements either on the label or attached as an accessory label"

<sup>1</sup>For the purpose of these standards, **medication** includes prescription medications; sample medications; herbal remedies; vitamins; nutraceuticals; over-the-counter drugs; vaccines; **diagnostic and contrast agents used on or administered to persons to diagnose, treat, or prevent disease or other abnormal conditions**; radioactive medications; respiratory therapy treatments; parenteral nutrition; blood derivatives; intravenous solutions (plain, with electrolytes and/or drugs); and any product designated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a drug.

# E-Z-EM Makes Compliance Easy.

## The Premixed, Single-dose Solution

Before you begin instituting costly and time-consuming changes in the way you mix, handle and label iodine contrast consider this: **E-Z-EM's Smoothie Read-Cat® 2 CT barium sulfate oral contrasts already come to you packaged in JCAHO-compliant, single-dose packaging**—simply shake and administer.

## Compare E-Z-EM's Smoothie Read-Cat® 2 CT barium sulfate oral contrast formulations to iodine compounds with regard to the revised standards:

Standard	Smoothie Read-Cat® 2	Iodine <sup>1</sup> /Concentrated Contrast
<b>MM. 4.20</b> covering accuracy in medication preparation and the prevention of contamination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Premixed and prepackaged Smoothie Read-Cat 2 <b>requires no mixing whatsoever.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixing of iodine compounds and flavorings must be carefully controlled, not approximated.</li> <li>Mixing must be accomplished in a "functionally separate" area.</li> </ul>
<b>MM. 4.30</b> requiring clear labeling of all unit dose medication containers, whether prepared on site or at a repackaging facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existing labeling of Smoothie Read-Cat 2 meets all JCAHO requirements and <b>entails no further action by the CT department prior to administration.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each unit dose mixed from a bulk container must be fully labeled, presumably by hand.</li> <li>Every cup prepared by someone other than the person administering the dosage must be labeled with the intended patient's name prior to delivery to the patient.</li> </ul>
<b>MM. 4.40</b> requiring medications to be provided in the most ready-to-administer form available from the manufacturer or, if feasible, in unit doses prepared by the pharmacy or a licensed repackager.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Premixed, prepackaged Smoothie Read-Cat 2 <b>already meets this standard.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Together with labeling requirements adds substantial repackaging costs or added costs and workload for the pharmacy.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Currently, only one oral iodine is available in unit dose.



Cat. No.	Description	Units/Case
7250	250 ml bottle of Banana Smoothie Read-Cat 2, 2.1% w/v	24
7450	450 ml bottle of Banana Smoothie Read-Cat 2, 2.1% w/v	24
7150	450 ml bottle of Berry Smoothie Read-Cat 2, 2.1% w/v	24
7350	450 ml bottle of Apple Smoothie Read-Cat 2, 2.1% w/v	24

Our pleasant-tasting Banana Smoothie, Apple Smoothie and Berry Smoothie Read-Cat® 2 formulations require no additional flavorings to achieve compliance. And they provide transit times and image quality comparable to iodine but with significantly reduced risks of allergic reactions or hyperperistalsis.\*

\*Internal data on file.



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