Services and Responsibilities of the IDS

- Serves as an information resource for the hospital and its staff on all matters concerning investigational drug studies (e.g., FDA regulations and protocol development).
- Assists investigators in complying with the requirements of the FDA, sponsors, hospitals administrators, and the research protocols themselves with respect to such matters as data collection, patient eligibility, informed consent.
- Develops and implements procedures and assumes responsibility for the proper control and handling of investigational drugs. This function includes prescription labeling and dispensing, drug inventory management, and distribution and control considerations. The proper preparation and handling of chemotherapeutic agents (many having investigational status) are matters of increasing concern. The institution needs general precautions and procedures for safely handling these drugs, but the IDS can provide supplementary drug specific information.
- Assists investigators in preparing and obtaining approval of research protocols.
- Assists investigators with the administrative aspects of drug studies (e.g., completing drug disposition forms), thereby increasing the time available for the clinical aspects.
- Coordinates and assists with patient monitoring and education and provides information on investigational drugs to the medical, pharmacy, nursing staffs.
- Assists pharmaceutical manufacturers and other research sponsors in locating qualified investigators, suggest avenues for future research, and, in general, functions as a troubleshooter for the sponsor for the sponsor.
- Initiates and conducts appropriate research studies of its own.