

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Public Safety
Prison

SECTION: Care and Treatment of Patient –
Medication Administration

POLICY # TX II-9

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SUBJECT: Medication Duration for Outpatient Services

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2017

SUPERCEDES DATE: May 2011

References

Related ACA Standards

**4th Edition Standards for Adult Correctional
Institutions 4-4378**

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the duration of medication orders for outpatient services

POLICY

1. If an order does not specify a duration of therapy, the guidelines below will apply. Orders for controlled substances in Schedule CII are limited to 30 days with no refills. Anticoagulation therapy shall comply with the terms of the Health Services Policy and Procedures Manual, Policy # CP-14, Oral Anticoagulation.
2. Medications used to treat chronic diseases may be continued for two (2) weeks past the expiration date indicated by the prescriber, while a new order is being obtained by medical staff.
3. The date of reference for the start date of a controlled substance order is the date and time the order is written unless a future start date and time are specified. The stop date for a controlled substance order is referenced to the start date unless a stop date is specified.
4. For taper (dose decreasing) or titrate (dose increasing) controlled substance orders that must be processed in HERO as separate orders, the start date and stop date shall change to accommodate all days of the taper/titrate. The first order is processed with the start date and time the order is written or with the future start date and time when requested, and subsequent entries have a start date being based on the stop date and time of the previous order.
5. When a provider writes multiple orders for a sequence of two (2) or more different controlled substance medications, the start date and stop date shall change to accommodate all days of the therapy. The first order is processed with the start date and time the order is written or with the future start date and time when requested, and subsequent orders written on the same date and time have a start date, time, and stop date based on the stop date and time of the previous order.
6. Controlled substances, specifically opioids, prescribed on a chronic basis shall comply with the terms of the Health Services Policy and Procedure Manual, Policy # CP-11, Chronic Pain.
7. A chronic disease medication is any drug that is ordered for the treatment of the DPS recognized chronic diseases of HIV, diabetes, cardiovascular, pulmonary, mental health, seizures, and TB.

PROCEDURE

1. The medical staff obtains refill information from the pharmacy medication label and MAR.
2. When a refill is required, the medical staff shall promptly notify the appropriate attending provider to review the medical record and the patient's status to determine if the drug continues to be clinically indicated.

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3. A provider order shall be promptly entered into HERO to ensure timely delivery of the medication to the patient.
4. Chronic disease medication refills are generated by the pharmacy application, Medication Refill Tracking System (MRTS). A refill is dispensed up to the expiration date of the order but not less than a 7 day supply shall be dispensed.
5. A DPS Pharmacy may request a drug utilization review (DUR) and/or utilization review (UR) request for the chronic use of a controlled substance when complying with Chronic Pain Guidelines, Policy CP-11. The pharmacist will fill the current order for up to 30 days and notify the medical staff that a UR request must be submitted and approved before another order for a controlled substance will be dispensed.
6. Duration of therapy guidelines:
 - A. Controlled substance pain management therapy
 - All orders with no specified days supply 3 Days
 - All PRN orders with no quantity specified 30 Dosage units
 - All PRN orders with quantity specified 30 Days*
 - Patients on chronic pain management
 - Schedule CII up to 30 Days
 - Schedules (CIII through CV) up to 180 Days*
 - B. Benzodiazepines for detoxification 3 Days or specified days supply
 - C. All other controlled substance orders 30 Days
 - D. Antibiotics 10 Days
 - E. All other medications 30 Days

*Must comply with the Chronic Pain Guidelines, Policy # CP-11, Chronic Pain



1/31/2017

SOR: Director of Pharmacy

Paula Y. Smith, MD, Chief of Health Services

Date