



**PRISONS**  
**Health and Wellness Services**  
**Policies and Procedures**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Medication Duration for Outpatient Services</b>			
<b>Section</b>	TX II-9	<b>Issue Date</b> August 17, 2021	<b>Supersedes Date</b> January 2017	

**References**

**Performance-Based Standards and Expected Practices for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition 5-ACI-6A-18(M), 5-ACI-6A-43(M); Health and Wellness Clinical Practice Guideline CPG 6 Oral Anticoagulation; General Assembly of North Carolina Session 2017 Session Law 2017-74 House Bill 243 STOP ACT**

**I. PURPOSE**

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

**II. DEFINITION**

A chronic disease medication is any drug that is ordered for the treatment of the HIV, diabetes, cardiovascular, pulmonary, mental health, seizures, and TB.

**III. POLICY**

- (a) If an order does not specify a duration of therapy, the guidelines below shall apply.
  - (1) Orders for controlled substances in Schedule CII are limited to 30 days with no refills.
  - (2) Anticoagulation therapy shall be in accordance with Clinical Practice Guideline CPG 6 Oral Anticoagulation.
- (b) Medications used to treat chronic diseases shall be continued for two (2) weeks past the expiration date indicated by the prescriber, while a new order is being obtained by Health and Wellness staff.



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- (c) 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.
- (d) For taper (dose decreasing) or titrate (dose increasing) controlled substance orders that must be processed in the pharmacy software system as separate orders, the start date and stop date shall change to accommodate all days of the taper/titrate.
  - (1) 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.
  - (2) Subsequent entries have a start date being based on the stop date and time of the previous order.
- (e) 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.
  - (1) 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.
  - (2) 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.

**IV. PROCEDURE**

- (a) Health and Wellness staff obtain refill information from the pharmacy medication label, Medication Administration Record (MAR), or the patient’s health care record.
- (b) When a renewal is required, health and wellness staff shall promptly notify the appropriate attending provider to review the patient’s health care record and the patient’s status to determine if the drug continues to be clinically indicated.
- (c) A provider order shall be promptly entered into the patient’s health care record to ensure timely delivery of the medication to the patient.



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- (d) 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.
- (e) Pharmacy shall request a drug utilization review (DUR) and/or utilization review (UR) request for the chronic use of a controlled substance. The pharmacist will fill the current order for up to 30 days and notify the medical staff that an UR request must be submitted and approved before another order for a controlled substance will be dispensed.
- (f) Duration of therapy guidelines:
  - (1) Controlled substance pain management therapy:
    - (A) All orders with no specified days' supply 3 Days
    - (B) Target controlled substance for acute pain (STOP ACT) Max of 5 Days
    - (C) Target controlled substance for post-surgery pain (STOP ACT) Max of 7 Days
    - (D) All PRN orders with no quantity specified Max of 30 Dosage units
    - (E) All non-target-controlled substance PRN orders with quantity specified 30 Days
    - (F) Patients on chronic pain management with UR approval
      - (i) Schedule CII Up to 30 Days
      - (ii) Schedules CIII through CV Up to 180 Days
  - (2) Benzodiazepines for detoxification 3 Days or Specified Days' supply
  - (3) Non-target-controlled substance orders 30 Days
  - (4) Antibiotics 10 Days



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(5) All other medications

30 Days

August 17, 2021

Todd E. Ishee  
Commissioner of Prisons

Date