

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Correction
Division Of Prisons

SECTION: Care and Treatment of Patient –
Medication Administration

POLICY # TX II-9

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SUBJECT: Medication Duration for Outpatient Services

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 2011
SUPERCEDES DATE: June 2004

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 and anticoagulants 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 15 days past the expiration date indicated by the prescriber, while a new order is being obtained by nursing.
3. The date of reference for the start date of a controlled substance order is the date the order is written. The stop date for a controlled substance order is referenced to the start date of the order.
4. 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.
5. A chronic disease medication is any drug that is ordered for the treatment of a chronic disease, i.e. HIV/AIDS, diabetes, hypertension, congestive heart failure, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, etc.

PROCEDURE

1. The nursing staff obtains refill information from the pharmacy medication label and MAR.
2. When a refill is required, the nursing staff shall promptly notify the appropriate attending provider to review the medical record and the patient's status and determine if the drug continues to be clinically indicated.
3. A provider order 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. Central 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 nursing staff that a UR request must be submitted and approved before another order for a controlled substance will be dispensed.

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6. Duration of therapy guidelines: When duration is not specialized on the order.

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*

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

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



6/23/11

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Date

SOR: Director of Pharmacy