

CMS Prescribing Limits for PRN Psychotropics

Psychotropics are a broad class of medications that act on brain chemicals

Psychotropics include: anti-anxiety agents • antidepressants • antipsychotics • mood stabilizers • sedatives • stimulants

Due to increased adverse effect risk in the elderly CMS issued limits for psychotropics when prescribed “as needed”:

PRN Psychotropics (EXCLUDING antipsychotics)

E.g.: Clonazepam, Lorazepam, Trazodone, Zolpidem

- Therapy Duration limit – 14 days
- Exception – can be > 14 days if prescriber rationalizes need:
 - o Documents rationale in medical record
 - o Indicates a specific duration
 - Can be up to 60-90 days to cover until the next evaluation of the resident
- If no rationale provided: order should be discontinued and provider contacted
- During community behavior meetings, evaluate PRN orders for:
 - o Continued clinical necessity
 - o Appropriate nursing documentation

Checking for Psychotropics – ViewMasterRx

- Request ViewMasterRx psych report to be emailed daily
- Click blue Reports tab on left hand side of VMRx main menu
 - o Scroll down and click Report Scheduler under TOOLS
 - o Find Daily Psychotropic Drug New Starts report and click Schedule in right column
 - Selected Frequency: daily
 - Start date: “todays” date
 - Click boxes for: No End Date & Email (enter email)
 - Change Report Run Time to 7 AM (or a morning time you’d like to receive email)
 - Click acknowledgment statement (that requested emails are valid)
 - Click Schedule button in bottom right corner

PRN Antipsychotic Psychotropics

E.g.: Aripiprazole, Haloperidol, Olanzapine, Risperidone

- Therapy Duration Limit – 14 days (NO exceptions)
- Prescriber/physician may write for a new order (≤14 days) only if:
 - o Resident is evaluated via direct examination & assessment of current condition/progress
- Prescribers must document the following in the medical record for a new order as part of the evaluation:
 - o Is the medication still needed on PRN basis?
 - o What is the benefit to the resident?
 - o Have the resident’s expressions or indications of distress improved as a result of the PRN medication?

Guide for Nurse Managers in managing PRN orders

- Keep track of PRN psychotropics in order to:
 - o Obtain and enforce stop dates from prescribers
 - o Prompt prescribers to document appropriately
- Check all PRN psychotropic orders for stop dates at least weekly
- Check for resident-specific rationale if stop date >14 days
- Notify prescriber if stop date is within the week (allows time for prescriber to clinically evaluate)

Nurse Managers play an essential role in managing PRN psychotropic use!

Resident Name _____

Community _____ Date _____ Prescriber _____

DOB _____ Unit _____ Allergies _____

<p>Pertinent Psych Diagnoses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____ 	<p>Last Pain Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain Notes: <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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<p>Do behaviors have potential to harm resident or others?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Specific Behaviors Treated:</p> <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Distressing hallucinations/delusions</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Continuous pacing</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Hitting</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Danger to self</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Scratching</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme fear</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Kicking</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Head banging</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Spitting</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Throwing objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Threatening behaviors</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Anger with aggression</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Continuous crying</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Continuous screaming</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Distressing hallucinations/delusions	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuous pacing	<input type="checkbox"/> Hitting	<input type="checkbox"/> Danger to self	<input type="checkbox"/> Scratching	<input type="checkbox"/> Extreme fear	<input type="checkbox"/> Kicking	<input type="checkbox"/> Head banging	<input type="checkbox"/> Spitting	<input type="checkbox"/> Throwing objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Threatening behaviors	<input type="checkbox"/> Anger with aggression	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuous crying		<input type="checkbox"/> Continuous screaming		<p>Non-Drug Interventions Utilized:</p> <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1 on 1</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Give food</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Ambulate</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Give fluids</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Activity</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Change position</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Return to room</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Encourage to rest</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Toilet</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Backrub</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Redirected with: _____</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 on 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Give food	<input type="checkbox"/> Ambulate	<input type="checkbox"/> Give fluids	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Change position	<input type="checkbox"/> Return to room	<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage to rest	<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet	<input type="checkbox"/> Backrub	<input type="checkbox"/> Redirected with: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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Current PRN Psychotropic Order: _____

Number of doses administered in last 14 days: _____

Not Currently on PRN Psychotropic

<p>Prescriber orders:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Duration of order:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 14 days (Maximum allowed duration for antipsychotics)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>*Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRN Antipsychotics are limited to 14 days and require direct assessment by prescriber • Other PRN Psychotropics can be extended beyond 14 days with specific duration and rationale 	<p>Prescriber Assessment For Continuation of Order:</p> <p><i>Is current psychotropic medication still needed on prn basis?:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><i>Have resident's expressions or indications of distress improved as a result of the PRN medication?:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><i>What is the benefit of the medication to the resident (rationale):</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>Rationale for exceeding duration beyond 14 days (non-antipsychotic orders, when appropriate):</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Prescriber Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

§483.45(e)(3) Residents do not receive psychotropic drugs pursuant to a PRN order unless that medication is necessary to treat a diagnosed specific condition that is documented in the clinical record; and §483.45(e)(4) PRN orders for psychotropic drugs are limited to 14 days. Except as provided in §483.45(e)(5), if the attending physician or prescribing practitioner believes that it is appropriate for the PRN order to be extended beyond 14 days, he or she should document their rationale in the resident's medical record and indicate the duration for the PRN order. §483.45(e)(5) PRN orders for anti-psychotic drugs are limited to 14 days and cannot be renewed unless the attending physician or prescribing practitioner evaluates the resident for appropriateness of that medication.