



Section	Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)	Effective:	9/28/16
Sub-section	Nursing		
Policy	Stop Orders for Medications	Last Revised:	9/28/16
Policy #			
Director's Approval	_____	Date	_____
	Alice Gleghorn, PhD		
PHF Medical Director's Approval	_____	Date	_____
	Leslie Lundt, MD		
Supersedes:	New policy	Audit Date:	9/28/19

1. PURPOSE/SCOPE

- 1.1. To provide standards and procedures for assigning stop dates to medication orders when stop orders are not indicated by an authorized prescriber at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). Stop orders help safeguard patients against unnecessary and prolonged drug therapy.
- 1.2. To ensure the PHF's medication management policies are in compliance with all federal and state laws and standards of professional practice.

2. DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS

The following terms are limited to the purposes of this policy:

- 2.1. **Licensed nursing staff (LNS)** – an individual employed or contracted by the PHF who holds a valid California license as a: registered nurse (RN); licensed vocational nurse (LVN); or psychiatric technician (PT).

3. POLICY

- 3.1. It is the policy of the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) that all medication orders include a stop date in accordance with all relevant with all state and federal laws. PHF psychiatrists, staff physicians, nurse practitioners and physician's assistants (hereafter "prescriber") are responsible for assigning a stop date to all prescribed medications.
- 3.2. In the situation that a medication does not have a stop date, LNS will assign a stop date according to the medication's classification.

4. **STOP ORDER REVIEW**

- 4.1. Prior to a medication's administration, the medication order will be reviewed to ensure a current stop date is in place.
- 4.2. When a stop date is approaching, LNS will document on the physician's daily communication sheet that the medication needs to be renewed.
- 4.3. The following medication classes will reviewed for renewal or discontinuance after seven (7) days:
 1. Narcotics;
 2. Barbiturates;
 3. Benzodiazepines; and
 4. Any controlled substances locked in the narcotic cabinet.
- 4.4. The following medication classes will reviewed for renewal or discontinuance after 30 days:
 1. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications;
 2. Neuroleptics;
 3. Antidepressants;
 4. Anticholinergic;
 5. Antihistamines, including Benadryl;
 6. Lithium;
 7. Non-narcotic analgesics;
 8. Antibiotics; and
 9. All other medications.
- 4.5. When a stop order takes effect, no additional medications will be administered until a new order is obtained. This stop order policy does not apply if:
 1. the medication order indicates a specific number of doses are to be given;
 2. an exact period of time for administration of the drug that exceeds the number of days is indicated by the prescriber in the medication order; or
 3. the medication is reordered by the prescriber.

ASSISTANCE

Charlotte Balzer-Gott, RN, Nursing Supervisor

REFERENCE

California Code of Regulations – Social Security
Title 22, Chapter 9, Section 77079.4

Code of Federal Regulations
Title 42, Section 482.25

RELATED POLICIES

Transcription of New Medication Orders
 Controlled Substances

REVISION RECORD

DATE	VERSION	REVISION DESCRIPTION

Culturally and Linguistically Competent Policies

The Department of Behavioral Wellness is committed to the tenets of cultural competency and understands that culturally and linguistically appropriate services are respectful of and responsive to the health beliefs, practices and needs of diverse individuals. All policies and procedures are intended to reflect the integration of diversity and cultural literacy throughout the Department. To the fullest extent possible, information, services and treatments will be provided (in verbal and/or written form) in the individual’s preferred language or mode of communication (i.e. assistive devices for blind/deaf).