

**PROTOCOL FOR: Medication Monitoring**

- POLICY:**
1. It is preferred that the PHP/IOP MD or APRN manage the patient's medication during their admission to the program. The PHP/IOP MD or APRN assesses the appropriateness of any request to have a non-PHP/IOP MD or APRN manage the patient's medications while they attend PHP/IOP.
  2. The patient's response to medication will be monitored on program days. The results of the monitoring will be communicated to the MD or APRN by PHP/IOP clinicians or to a non-PHP/IOP MD or APRN if they are managing the patient's medications.
  3. The MD or APRN documents all orders as per the policy "Physician and APRN Orders for Patients" and documents the patient's status in a progress note.

**DECISION MAKING**

- PROCESS:**
1. The MD for PHP or MD/APRN for IOP:
    - a. On admission, makes an initial assessment of the patient and determines the patient's mental status and diagnosis. Reviews the patient's current medications, allergies, medical conditions and previous medication trials. Adjusts the medication regimen as appropriate and orders appropriate tests. Writes the Admission Orders as per the policy "Physician and APRN Orders for Patients".
  2. The PHP/IOP Staff:
    - a. Assesses the patient's mental status and target symptoms on program days.
    - b. Monitors the patients' compliance, side effects and therapeutic effectiveness of their medications.
    - c. Documents any new medical conditions or medication changes made by other medical providers.
    - d. Reports clinical changes in the patient's mental status or medication status to the MD or APRN.
    - e. Notifies the MD or APRN immediately if any of the following occur:
      - 1) Dystonia and Dyskinesia
      - 2) Any potentially hazardous side effects
      - 3) Significant deterioration or unexpected change in patient's condition
    - f. Meets on a weekly basis with the MD and/or APRN to review the patient's status and medications
  3. The MD or APRN:

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- a. Meets with the patient on a routine and as needed basis to assess medication status, symptom relief, new symptoms, side effects, compliance, potential drug interactions and therapeutic effectiveness of the medications prescribed.
  - b. Educates the patient on the medications prescribed including, but not limited to, the rationale for medication, effects, side effects and dosing instructions.
  - c. Orders appropriate tests for the medications prescribed. Reviews the test results in a timely manner and adjusts the medications as appropriate.
  - d. Documents all orders as per the policy "Physician and APRN Orders for Patients" and documents the patient's status in a progress note.
  - e. Prescribes the quantity of medication based on the patient's safety status.
  - f. Communicates medication changes, tests and other orders to the Treatment Coordinator.
4. The PHP/IOP Staff, MD and/or APRN:
- a. Determines the ability of the patient to manage their medications independently in a safe manner. The outcome of this assessment may include recommending/requiring the patient obtain a medication box, prescribing limited quantities of medication, requiring another person (which may include ordering VNA services) to monitor and dispense the medication at home, assisting the patient with filling the medication box on a weekly basis, or ordering the medication box be pre-filled by the patient's pharmacy and dispensed on a weekly basis.
  - b. When an exception is made and a non-PHP/IOP MD or APRN manages the patient's medications during program attendance, the medication status will be reported to that MD or APRN by the PHP/IOP clinician, MD or APRN.

**APPROVAL:**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 4/94

**REVISION DATES:** 11/97, 3/99, 2/00, 6/07, 8/08, 12/08