



PRN Medications Procedure

Procedure Number

WCDHB-PC-0013

Version Nos:

7

1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the details for the prescribing and administration of PRN medications by West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) Clinical Staff.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all clinical staff throughout WCDHB.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

PRN Medication is taken to mean *pro re nata* meaning "as needed medication"

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

WCDHB Medical Staff (Doctors) are required to prescribe PRN Medications in accordance with the requirements of this Procedure and the WCDHB Prescribing Procedure.

WCDHB Nursing Staff are required to administer PRN Medication in accordance with the prescribing Doctors instructions and relevant WCDHB Procedures

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Patient's Clinical Record
- ii) PRN Medication

6. Process

- 1.00 Medication orders (prescriptions) that are written "as needed," or PRN, without a specific frequency, have often led to errors involving inappropriate doses. To avoid these errors, the prescribing Doctor is to note the PRN Medication's indication-for-use in order to record why the particular medication is being prescribed. (In accordance with the requirements of the *WCDHB Prescribing Procedure*)
 - 1.01 Doctor's orders for all PRN medications must have:
 - i) specific target symptoms; and
 - ii) instruction(s) for the PRN medications use ; and
 - iii) indicate a frequency and dose range; and
 - iv) include the reason for the PRN medication.
 - 1.02 Nursing staff may administer PRN medications only according to the prescribing Doctor's prescription and not according to any assessments or medical decisions/judgments independently made by them or other staff.



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- 1.03 If PRN orders are unclear, the prescribing Doctor must be contacted for clarification before the PRN medication is administered
- 1.04 Administration of PRN medications is to occur as per the requirements of the *WCDHB Administration of Medications Procedure*.
- 1.05 Administration of PRN medications is to be documented in the patient's clinical record as per the requirements of the *WCDHB Clinical Documentation Procedure*.
- 1.06 Any errors associated with the administration of PRN medication are to be documented as per the requirements of the *WCDHB Adverse Drug Event Procedure*.
- 1.07 Staff are to use their regular shift handover meetings as an opportunity to review the use of PRN medication for each patient.
- 1.08 If a patient has received PRN medication on 4 or more consecutive occasions, then the medication is to be charted (by the prescribing Doctor) for administration on a regular basis.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ PRN Medication orders are to always indicate a frequency and dose range (e.g., 20-40 mg) on PRN orders, as well as a reason for the medication and dose
- ➔ If PRN orders are unclear, the prescribing Doctor must be contacted for clarification before the PRN medication is administered
- ➔ Any errors associated with the administration of PRN medication are to be documented as per the requirements of the *WCDHB Adverse Drug Event Procedure*.

8. References

There are no references associated with this Procedure.

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Administration of Medications Procedure
 WCDHB Adverse Drug Event Procedure
 WCDHB Clinical Documentation Procedure
 WCDHB Prescribing Procedure

Revision History	Version:	7
	Developed By:	Quality Improvement Co-Ordinator
	Authorised By:	Chief Executive Officer
	Date Authorised:	January 1998
	Date Last Reviewed:	May 2011
	Date Of Next Review:	May 2013