

**WHITING FORENSIC HOSPITAL**  
**Nursing Policy and Procedure Manual**

**SECTION F: MEDICATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**CHAPTER 23: MEDICATION MANAGEMENT**

**POLICY & PROCEDURE 23.6.1: PRN ORDERS**

**Standard of Practice:**

The registered nurse continually assesses the patient's response to scheduled medication(s) and assesses the need for additional medication. Administration of PRN medication, and the patient's response to it, will be documented on the Medication Administration Record (MAR) and Progress Notes of the Medical Record.

**Standard of Care:**

The patient can expect to receive medication(s) based on his/her individual indications, from a nurse qualified to administer them.

**I. Prescription of PRN Medication**

- Physician Orders specify the clinical usage, frequency, dosage, and route.
- All PRN medication orders start after the safety check has been done by the Pharmacist (during regular Pharmacy hours) or On-Call Physician (after hours).
- The date and time is documented by the prescriber at the time the order is written per medical staff policy.
- Orders without a date and time or clinical usage written are not valid and must be clarified before transcribing the order.
- Automatic stop date of a PRN order is determined by the Automatic Stop Order Policy.
- The pharmacy system interfaces with the Pyxis profile and will record the date and time the medication is to be discontinued.
- Both the Pyxis profile and MAR must match all parameters.

**II. Administration, Assessment and Documentation of PRN Effectiveness**

The RN reviews the clinical indications for a PRN, assesses the patient's need for PRN medication, administers medication as indicated, and assesses effectiveness.

- Pain is assessed with a numerical scale before, and 1 hour after, administration of the PRN. The numerical assessment, before and after, is documented on the MAR.
- PRN medication for agitation/anxiety is offered/administered if Personal Preferences are ineffective. The clinical indications for use and the effectiveness are documented on the MAR.

- PRN medication to assist sleep/rest is offered/administered if other sleep aids are ineffective. Effectiveness is documented on the MAR.
- PRN medication to assist bowel elimination is offered/administered if other natural aids are ineffective. Their effectiveness is documented on the MAR.
- The need for other PRN medication is assessed by the RN, administered when indicated, and efficacy documented on the MAR.
- Any new PRN requires a note in the Progress Note as to the rationale for its use, education of the patient, as well as the patient's response and efficacy.