

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES
Health Care Department Operations Manual

3.5.10 Dental Urgent/Emergent Medication Process

(a) Procedure Overview

This procedure requires collaboration between California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) dental and pharmacy staff to ensure compliance with Division of Health Care Services and California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) institutional and pharmacy regulatory requirements to meet the dental needs for patients.

(b) Purpose

To ensure that patients with urgent/emergent dental conditions receive appropriate medication(s) in a safe and timely manner and appropriate medications are available to patients with acute dental conditions in the dental clinic when medication delivery by the Triage and Treatment Area (TTA) nursing or medical staff is not possible.

(c) Procedure

(1) Providing Urgent Prescription Medication to Dental Patients

(A) Prescription Requirements

Medications provided by dentists shall comply with regulatory requirements and CCHCS procedures.

1. Prescriptions shall contain all required elements and conditions outlined in the Health Care Department Operations Manual (HCDOM), Section 3.5.5, Prescription/Order Requirements.
2. Dental and pharmacy shall follow the priority fill process when a prescription is required to be filled and returned to the patient within a short time frame. Prescribed medication start times shall be clearly written on a CDC 7221, Physician's Orders, or Medication Reconciliation Form.

(B) Dispensing Requirements

1. The dentist may act as a dispensing dentist. A dispensing dentist must assume all the requirements and responsibilities of a dispenser of medications per California Business and Professions Code, Section 4170.
2. When acting as a dispensing dentist, the dentist shall:
 - a. Write a prescription for the drug(s) on a CDC 7221 or Medication Reconciliation Form indicating that the medication was dispensed. The prescription shall be provided to the pharmacy for order entry into the patient medication profile, and the original shall be sent to medical records for incorporation into the health record.
 - b. Affix a prescription label to the medication package being dispensed to the patient, except in the case of over-the-counter (OTC) medications as described in Section (c)(2) of this procedure. The label must comply with California Business and Professions Code Section 4170. The dentist's name and clinic designation must be identified as the dispensing entity.
 - c. Document in the health record that applicable patient education/counseling was given.

(C) "Now" doses from pharmacy for situations where the dentist determines an immediate dose is necessary:

1. "Now" doses shall be obtained from pharmacy during operational hours when possible.
2. After-hours doses shall be obtained from TTA and after-hours supply.

(D) Alternatives to "now" doses from the pharmacy

If the Pharmacist-in-Charge (PIC), Supervising Dentist, and Chief Executive Officer/Chief Medical Executive or Chief Nurse Executive determine that there are documented barriers to the timely delivery/administration of "now" doses, the following alternative processes may be adopted:

1. The dentist shall perform a safety assessment including patient allergy, medication history, and contraindications to confirm that the medication is appropriate. The assessment shall be completed by reviewing the health record and current medication profile.
2. Medication supplies shall be ordered by the Supervising Dentist, or designee, on a CDC 7221 specifying for "Dental Clinic Use." The drug, strength, number of pills per package, number of packages, clinic name, and signature of the Supervising Dentist, or designee, must be included.
3. The dispensing dentist shall personally dispense required medication in an appropriate package and with a legal label as defined in Section (c)(1)(B) of this procedure. This cannot be delegated to any other dental staff.
4. The dentist must note the medication name, strength, dosage, directions for use, route of administration, frequency of administration, and quantity provided to the patient on a CDCR 237-C, Dental Progress Note, or CDCR 237-C1, Supplemental Dental Progress Notes. The dentist shall ensure the document is sent for scanning into the health record. Additionally, the dentist shall ensure that the medication administered is documented on CDCR 7438, Dental Pharmaceutical Record Log.

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(2) Providing Urgent OTC Medication to Dental Patients

This process allows a dentist to provide limited quantities of analgesic medications directly to the patient following an invasive dental procedure. In addition to Section (c)(1)(D) of this procedure, the following requirements apply:

- (A) The dentist may provide the patient with one bottle of OTC consumer-ready packaged analgesic medication.
1. Only small quantities of OTC consumer-ready packaged analgesic medications (e.g. acetaminophen 325mg and ibuprofen 200mg solid oral dosage forms) may be provided to patients through this process.
 2. The pharmacy shall supply the OTC consumer-ready package and not prepackage any other dosage forms, strengths, medications, nor will the pharmacy supply bulk stock.
 3. If the dentist dispenses any quantity of medication or gives any directions other than those on the consumer-ready package, the dentist must meet all of the requirements for a dispensing dentist.
- (B) Staff shall not affix any separate label to the OTC consumer-ready package.
- (C) As the quantity provided will be a multi-day supply, the dentist shall not write a prescription to be filled through the pharmacy.

(3) Providing Prescription Medications to the Dental Clinic

(A) Medications

Only the following prescription medications may be provided by the pharmacy in commercially available unit of use or unit dose or Central Fill Pharmacy packaging to the Supervising Dentist or designee to be stored and used for treatment of dental patients with urgent/emergent conditions:

1. Amoxicillin 500mg #30 [Ten day supply]
2. Clindamycin 150mg #40 [Ten day supply]
3. Ibuprofen 600mg #20 [Ten day supply]
4. Quantity variations, not to exceed those noted above, may be provided by mutual agreement between the PIC, the Supervising Dentist, and the Statewide Chief of Pharmacy Services.

(B) Storage and Stock Levels

1. The Supervising Dentist or designee shall ensure that all medications stored in the dental clinics are in a secure place and under appropriate storage conditions pursuant to the HCDOM, Section 3.5.11, Medication Inventory Management, Labeling, and Storage. The PIC shall ensure that medications stored in dental clinics are inspected monthly.
2. The Supervising Dentist and the PIC shall be responsible for determining appropriate par levels of medications issued for use by dentists within the dental clinics.

(C) Reporting Medication Issues From Dental Dispensing

Medication issues related to the function of dispensing dentists shall be reported to the Supervising Dentist at the institution, Regional Dental Director, and the Statewide Chief of Pharmacy Services.

(4) Providing Medical Emergency Drug Kit Items to the Dental Clinic

- (A) For medical emergencies that occur within the dental clinic, a standardized statewide Medical Emergency Drug Kit shall be maintained by the dentist in each dental clinic as defined by the HCDOM, Section 3.3.5.8, Medical Emergencies in the Dental Clinic. The following drugs will be provided by pharmacy for incorporation into the kit:

Item	Quantity
Epi-pen 0.3 mg	1
Diphenhydramine 50 mg/ml	2
Nitroglycerin tabs 0.4 mg	25
Levalbuterol (Xopenex HFA [®]) Inhaler	1
Glucose gel 15 g	1
Aromatic ammonia ampule	3
Chewable Aspirin 81 mg (commercially available package)	Smallest available

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- (B) Within the same business day of the emergency, the treating dentist shall be responsible for alerting pharmacy to replenish any item that was removed, identifying patient name, CDCR number and drug administered for pharmacy tracking, and making the kit available for replenishment by pharmacy staff.
- (C) A pharmacist shall inspect the Medical Emergency Drug Kit in each dental clinic on a monthly basis. Medications expiring within the next 60 days shall be removed and replaced. Other maintenance of dental kits (e.g. seals and logs) is the responsibility of the Supervising Dentist or designee.

References

- California Business and Professions Code, Sections 4040 (a)(2), 4076, 4170, 4171(b)
- California Health and Safety Code, Division 10, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 11150
- Health Care Department Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Article 3, Section 3.3.5.8, Medical Emergencies in the Dental Clinic
- Health Care Department Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 3.5.5, Prescription/Order Requirements
- Health Care Department Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 3.5.11, Medication Inventory Management, Labeling, and Storage
- Health Care Department Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 3.5.20, Floor Stock Orders

Revision History

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