

3.5.19 Medications Brought from a Non-CDCR Facility

(a) Procedure Overview

Medications brought with or for a patient into a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) facility from a community hospital, clinic, provider's office, narcotic treatment program (NTP), or external pharmacy are intended for use to ensure continuity of care and, if possible, only until the correctional pharmacy can make the medication available in a licensed correctional clinic, automated drug delivery system, or as a patient-specific dispense. Medications dispensed from an external facility may be used within CDCR only after the medications have been examined and positively identified by the patient's provider or pharmacist and after a Primary Care Provider, psychiatrist (if it is a psychotropic medication), or dentist (when the medication has been ordered for a dental condition) has approved and ordered their use. The medications provided from an external source should be nurse administered (NA) or direct observed therapy (DOT), unless specifically ordered as KOP by a provider.

(b) Purpose

To provide continuity of care, while ensuring that all medications administered to patients are correct and appropriate.

(c) Procedure

(1) Orders for Continuing Medications Dispensed from an External Facility

- (A) When a patient from an external facility (e.g., community hospital, clinic, provider's office) returns to a CDCR facility with medications, the provider shall assess the appropriateness of the medication; determine the availability of a formulary alternative, if indicated; and write a medication order to continue the medication brought into the institution.
- (B) For medications prescribed and dispensed from an NTP, the provider shall document in the health record that the patient is receiving the medication.
- (C) The medication is recommended to be processed as NA or DOT. If neither is feasible, then a provider may order the medication as keep-on-person (KOP) and document justification for doing so.

(2) Identifying the Medications

Prior to the patient's continued use of a medication brought with or for the patient into a CDCR facility, a provider or pharmacist shall examine and positively identify the medication.

(A) During Pharmacy Hours

Nursing and pharmacy staff shall coordinate to allow a pharmacist to examine and verify medications brought from non-CDCR sources if the provider orders to continue the medication.

(B) After Pharmacy Hours

1. If the medication is ordered to be administered after pharmacy business hours, the provider shall inspect, positively identify and approve the medication, prior to releasing it for administration.
2. If the provider is not available for inspection of the medication, licensed health care staff shall contact the provider on-call for further guidance.
3. When the pharmacy reopens and if the medication is still needed, the pharmacist shall verify the order and, if possible, re-dispense the medication with CDCR stock. Authorized medications from outside sources shall be used only until the prescription can be filled by the institution pharmacy.

(3) Labeling Medications from an External Facility

Pharmacy staff shall affix a CDCR medication label to the medication dispensed from an external facility for all orders that are KOP. If possible, the original label from the external facility shall remain visible for medications returned to the patient for KOP administration.

(4) Onsite Administrations of Narcotic Treatment Program Medications during Modified Programming

- (A) In the event of modified programming or other special circumstance in which an NTP needs to deliver a supply of controlled substances used for substance abuse treatment and detoxification for a patient, a pharmacist shall verify the contents and quantities delivered. The handoff between the NTP and pharmacist shall be documented on the CDCR 7457, Pharmacy Chain of Custody Log – Patient's Methadone Supply (Delivered by NTP).
- (B) The patient-specific medications shall be kept locked and separate from the pharmacy's inventory until the medications can be delivered to a licensed correctional clinic.
- (C) The medication handoff between pharmacy and nursing staff shall be documented on the CDCR 7457.
- (D) Nursing staff shall secure the controlled substances in a locked cart, cabinet, or drawer and document the security of the medications in their possession on the CDCR 7456, Nursing Chain of Custody Log – Methadone Supply (Delivered by NTP).

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

References

- Title 22, Division 5, Chapter 3, Article 3, Section 72367, Pharmaceutical Service – Personal Medications
- Title 22, Division 5, Chapter 12, Article 3, Section 79661, Pharmaceutical Service – Personal Medications
- Business and Professions Code, Chapter 9, Division 2, Article 3, Section 4052.7, Repackage Previously Dispensed Drugs; Requirements
- Health Care Department Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 3.5.4, CCHCS Drug Formulary
- Health Care Department Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 3.5.5, Prescription/Order Requirements

Revision History

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