



Psychotropic medication PRN stickers

Recording medication use

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission is helping providers to understand issues and their responsibilities around minimising the use of chemical and physical restraint. This includes ensuring that providers are appropriately documenting each instance of use.

Providers must keep and maintain an ongoing record of the use of psychotropic medication, particularly when used PRN (as needed) for management of behaviour, which constitutes chemical restraint.

PRN chemical restraint has high risks for the consumer. Providers must be confident that its use is the option of last resort and is confined to strictly limited circumstances, in accordance with the Quality of Care Principles (as amended) and including legal requirements regarding informed consent.

Keeping clear records will help recipients' representatives, prescribers and the Commission's quality assessors and complaints officers to understand the details, frequency and context of the use of PRN medication. A formatted sticker has been developed as an option for use by residential services to flag each instance of PRN administration of psychotropic medication to a consumer.

In services that choose to use the sticker, the staff member giving a consumer a psychotropic medication on a PRN (as needed) basis should complete all relevant fields on the sticker and then stick it in the recipient's clinical notes. The effect and impact of the medication should be filled in later at review.

Examples illustrating how to use the sticker appear over the page.

Use of this resource is not mandatory. It is offered to assist providers who recognise a need to improve their recording and monitoring of PRN psychotropic medication with the goal of minimising its use. Providers are free to develop or use other methods of recording the required information. (It is noted that work is underway to develop an e-sticker equivalent to append to electronic consumer records.)

Two templates of the stickers can be found on the Commission's website to download and print for ongoing use (agedcarequality.gov.au/resources/prn-stickers). The stickers can be printed on white sticky labels, or coloured sticky labels if preferred.



PRN Psychotropic medication monitoring

Date: 1.12.19

Resident name: Ethel Resident

PRN medication: Risperidone Dose: 0.5mg

Indication this use: Very agitated and distressed

Strategies tried before medication: Document the specific individualised behaviour strategies used before PRN med

Authorised by: M. French (RN)

Given by: Eileen T (Carer) Time: 6 pm Sign: ET

Outcome/effect: Much more settled, ate dinner

Time: 8 pm Sign: ET

Notes: Entered in risk document

PRN Psychotropic medication monitoring

Date: 2.12.19

Resident name: William Resident

PRN medication: Risperidone Dose: 1mg

Indication this use: Aggressive shouting and banging

Strategies tried before medication: Document the specific individualised behaviour strategies used before PRN med

Authorised by: Marion French (RN)

Given by: Eileen Nurse Time: 11 am Sign: EN

Outcome/effect: Stopped aggression, unsteady and fell over

Time: 12 pm Sign: EN

Notes: GP to review dose please

PRN Psychotropic medication monitoring

Date: 3.12.19

Resident name: Michael Resident

PRN medication: Valium Dose: 5mg

Indication this use: Trying to get out of bed

Strategies tried before medication: Document the specific individualised behaviour strategies used before PRN med

Authorised by: RN French

Given by: Eileen Nurse Time: 9am Sign: EN

Outcome/effect: Very sleepy and unable to eat all day

Time: 5pm Sign: EN

Notes: I have let daughter know

Description of each field on the PRN sticker

- Date medication used
- Name of resident
- Name of psychotropic medication
- Dose given on this occasion
- The reasons for the use of psychotropic medication on this occasion
- Individualised non-pharmacological behaviour strategies tried prior to use e.g. reorientation, reassurance, reduce noise, activities, familiar objects, quiet space, companionship, TV, warm milk, snack, soothing music, etc.
- Name of person who authorised use of medication on this occasion
- Name of person who gave the medication and signature
- Time medication was given
- Outcome/effect of medication: effect on behaviour, side effects e.g. excessive or prolonged sedation
- Time of observing and recording the outcome and effect of medication
- Signed by person observing and recording
- Notes: e.g. where else incident needs documenting in system, if representative or prescriber notified.