

# Partners In Recovery

POLICY AND  
STANDARDS

*Applicable Arizona Department of Health Services Behavioral Health Licensing Rule(s):  
R9-20-201B.2.l*

**Policy Name: Monitoring Medications**

**Policy Number: MED - 0004**

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H.M. Gilbert Jr., Executive Director, PIR

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Date

***Cross Reference(s)***

*None*

***Policy Statement***

Partners In Recovery clinics will manage and monitor medication therapy to support positive consumer outcomes.

***Purpose***

To ensure that medication therapy is appropriately monitored for each consumer, to minimize the occurrence of adverse events, to maximize the therapeutic benefit and to minimize adverse side effects.

***Scope***

Partners In Recovery Direct Care Clinics.

***Key Terms***

Should the reader need to inquire as to the definition of a term used in this policy, the Partners In Recovery Key Term Glossary can be found in the back of the Policy and Procedure Manual.

***Standards***

- I. The DCCs provide medication monitoring and adjustment services to consumers. These services include:
  - A. Review of laboratory tests;
  - B. Observation of consumer behaviors; and
  - C. Recording consumer reactions to medications and changes in medication orders to alter possible negative reactions or to obtain the desired therapeutic response and blood levels.
- II. The Behavioral Health Medical Practitioner (BHMP) will ensure that the consumers, family, and/or guardians are adequately educated regarding the risks and benefits of psychotropic agents prior to prescribing a new medication.
  - A. Prior to administering a new medication, the Nurse will determine if the consumer has previously taken the prescribed medication.
  - B. If the consumer has taken the medication, the Nurse will determine if the consumer experienced side effects.
  - C. Prior to administering the new medication, the Nurse will provide written and verbal education relating to the drug and answer all consumer questions.

- D. The Nurse will document any untoward reactions previously experienced by the consumer to the drug, and the medication education that occurred, in the Nursing Progress Note.
- III. The process for how Nurses, BHMPs, and DCC staff monitor the consumer for therapeutic benefits and side effects of medications is as follows:
  - A. The BHMP will monitor the consumer's observable response to his/her medication as well as the consumer's actual or potential medication-related problems, if any. The progress note will reflect any noted problems or changes that appear to be medication related;
  - B. The BHMP and nurse will ask the consumer if he/she thinks the medication is effective and if he/she notices any untoward effects from the medication. The progress note will reflect the consumer's response to his/her medication;
  - C. The BHMP will review lab results. The plan to address any abnormal lab results or subtherapeutic drug levels will be reflected in his/her progress notes;
  - D. The Nurse and DCC staff will also notify the BHMP immediately if the consumer informs him/her of any medication complication. If necessary 911 will be called; and
  - E. These standards apply for new medications as well as ongoing medications.
- IV. Consumers who are seen in the Direct Care Clinics are seen based on need.
  - A. Individuals who have achieved psychiatric stability will be seen minimally once every three months.
  - B. Individuals who are experiencing significant psychiatric symptomatology and medication side effects will be seen on an as needed basis until these issues resolve.
- V. BHMPs shall assess the need for laboratory tests and order them as clinically needed. (per Medication Monitoring Minimum Requirements as established in the Provider Manual).
  - A. Whenever a critical lab result is reported, the Nurse will verify the result by restating the result and the name and number of the technician reporting the result. The critical level will be reported to the BHMP immediately.
  - B. The plan for addressing the critical lab result will be documented in the progress note and coordination of care with the consumer's primary care physician will be completed.

***Associated Partners In Recovery Direct Care Clinics Forms & Attachments***

*Nursing Progress Note*

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