

# Partners In Recovery

POLICY AND  
STANDARDS

*Applicable Arizona Department of Health Services Behavioral Health Licensing Rule(s):*  
R9-20-201B2.1

**Policy Name: Use of Fast-Acting Medications**

**Policy Number: MED - 0010**

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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 allow the use of fast-acting medications at Direct Care Clinics when clinical appropriate.

### ***Purpose***

To describe the use of fast-acting medications at Partners In Recovery Direct Care Clinics with consumers who exhibit overly anxious behavior.

### ***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. Consumers presenting with increased anxiety
  - A. Whenever a consumer presents in the clinic with increased anxiety, e.g., presenting as overly anxious or exhibiting escalating behavior, but not in imminent danger to harm self or others, the staff will offer the consumer a calm, quiet environment in an effort to help the consumer maintain control.
    - Examples of a calm, quiet environment include, but are not limited to, a small unused conference room or an unused office furnished with a suitable lounge chair.
  - B. If this is not sufficient to help the consumer decrease their anxiety, the Behavioral Health Medical Practitioner (BHMP) may prescribe a fast-acting medication for the consumer. No medications will be given without the appropriate consent of the consumer. The prescribed medication shall not have the effect of restricting the consumer's freedom of movement and the medication shall be part of the consumer's standard treatment options for their psychiatric diagnosis. Medications are either short acting/immediate release IM or dissolvable tablets (examples of stocked medications include: lorazepam IM 2mg/dl, haloperidol IM 5mg/ml, fluphenazine IM 2.5mgml, benztropine IM 1mg/ml, diphenhydramine IM 50mg/ml, hydroxyzine IM 25mg/ml, and zyprexa zydis 5mg PO).
    1. The BHMP will document the order on the *Medication Flow Sheet* noting the name of the medication to be administered, as well as the dose, route and frequency.
    2. The BHMP will inform the consumer of any potential side effects, risks and benefits, and will obtain signed informed consent as needed.

3. The BHMP will enter a progress note in the consumer's clinical record reflecting the reasons for the use of a fast-acting medication.
  4. The Nurse will review the medication order and administer the medication as prescribed.
  5. The Nurse will document the fast-acting medication on the *Medication Flow Sheet* and complete a nursing progress note.
  6. If the consumer received an injection of a controlled substance, the Nurse will account for the medication in the *Controlled Substance Log*.
- C. Once the medication is administered, the Nurse will stay with the consumer for a minimum of 10 minutes to assess the consumer's response to the medication. During this time, the nurse will obtain the consumer's vital signs. Additional vital signs will be obtained as needed or requested by the BHMP .
1. The Nurse will report any adverse effects to the BHMP.
  2. If the consumer is stable at the end of the first ten minute observation by the Nurse, a case manager or family member may be asked to remain with the consumer.
- D. The Nurse will continue to monitor the consumer's vital signs every 30 minutes until the consumer is cleared to leave the site by the BHMP.
1. The BHMP will evaluate the consumer prior to the consumer leaving the site to determine if the fast-acting medication was effective in reducing the targeted symptoms.
    - a) The case manager will take the consumer home if the BMHP determines that the consumer is experiencing any side effects to the prescribed medication and a family member is not available to transport the consumer home.
    - b) If the consumer's behavior escalates to a crisis level with the potential for self-harm or harm to others, the BHMP will reassess available interventions including, but not limited to, in-home support services, evaluation and admission to an inpatient crisis unit, or inpatient psychiatric unit.
    - c) If the consumer should present in the clinic after 4:00 p.m. and the BHMP determines that there would not be either sufficient time or staff availability to monitor the consumer's status following the administration of a fast-acting medication, the BHMP may refer the consumer to the Urgent Psychiatric Care Center instead.
  2. Upon leaving the site, the consumer and family, if available, will be instructed to call the clinic for any concerns during regular clinic hours and to call the Partners In Recovery Crisis Services after clinic hours.
- II. In the event a significant adverse effect or emergency situation should occur while the consumer is still at the clinic, staff will call 911 immediately.

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

*Medication Flow Sheet*

*Controlled Substance Log*                   #   #   #