



**POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL
PHARMACY SERVICES**

SECTION: **INPATIENT PHARMACY SERVICES**

SUBJECT: **PATIENT CONTROLLED ANALGESIA PROGRAM**

CODE: 3.13.5
DATE: 3/13/97
REVISED: 4/19/22
APPROVED: Tinh Tran, Pharm. D.
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POLICY

Post-surgical patients who meet guidelines for self-administration of morphine sulfate or hydromorphone may be begun on patient controlled analgesia (PCA)

PROCEDURES

PATIENT ELIGIBILITY

1. Adults (post-surgical)
 - a. Conscious patient who understands the objectives for the use of PCA
 - b. Patients in whom the need of narcotics for pain control as frequently as every 2-3 hours is clinically indicated
2. Children (post-surgical) - over the age of 6 who can understand treatment

PHYSICIAN

1. Physician refers to attending physicians, fellows, and residents under the attending physician's supervision.
2. Physician will discuss the plan to use PCA with the patient/family prior to initiation of treatment. Decision is documented in the Physician's Progress Notes, and the physician/R.N. will ensure that the patient/family has been adequately educated and signs the *PCA Patient Education Acknowledgment Form*.
3. Prescribing of PCA morphine or hydromorphone **precludes** the co-administration of other narcotics; however, PCA may be used in combination with other medications, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, local anesthetics, or non-pharmacologic interventions to prevent, reduce, or relieve pain.
4. PCA order is entered into the patient's electronic health record (EHR).
5. Upon the discretion of the Anesthesiologist the PCA orders may be initiated in the PACU.
6. Physician understands that PCA morphine or hydromorphone expires 72 hours after initiation, and must be re-ordered along with a justification for continued use in the Physician progress notes.

Reviewed: 7/30/14II, 4/19/2022 TT

Approved By: 



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REGISTERED NURSE

1. PCA morphine or hydromorphone ordering, dispensing, and securing is consistent with Pharmacy Policy 3.13.0.
2. Nurse ensures that 2 vials of naloxone/patient will be kept available in the unit's After Hours/Emergency Medication supply at all times.
3. The infuser key for the PCA pumps will be secured by the R.N. with the narcotics key at all times.
4. The R.N. validates entered order and appropriate progress note documentation of the physician.
5. Instructs the patient/family on the concept and use of the PCA infuser following the Patient Education Guidelines. Upon completion of instruction patient/family will sign the *PCA Infuser Patient Education Acknowledgment* form, which will be placed in the front of the chart.

PHARMACIST

1. Pharmacist verified the entered order for PCA morphine or hydromorphone.