



Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

Policy & Procedure Title:		DHS Maintenance Medication List Dispensing Policy	
Category:	300-399 Operation Policy	Policy No.:	329.012
Originally Issued:	4/9/2013	Update (U)/Revised (R):	10/1/2014 (R)
DHS Division/Unit of Origin:	Office of Pharmacy Affairs		
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Distribution: DHS-wide	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If not DHS-wide, other distribution:	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to encourage the prescribing of up to 100 days of chronic care maintenance medication therapy, with the purpose to maximize medication adherence, improve patient convenience, and maximize pharmacy dispensing efficiency.

DEFINITION(S):

- Ambulatory pharmacy – DHS pharmacy authorized to dispense medications to patients for therapy on an outpatient basis.
- Chronic care agent – medications prescribed for chronic, long-term conditions and are taken on a regular, recurring basis. Example: hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, diabetes.
- Medication adherence – the extent to which patients take medications as prescribed by their health care provider.¹
- Refill – medication dispensing after the first/original prescription dispensing not requiring an additional provider authorization.

POLICY:

The DHS Maintenance Medication List is a recommended list of medications that serve as a guideline to encourage DHS health care providers to prescribe and ambulatory pharmacies to dispense up to a 100 day supply of chronic care agent medications to increase patient compliance and decrease pharmacy dispensing burden.

The mission of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services is to ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.

Revision/Review Dates:
 Department Head/Designee Approval: Signature on File

Drugs placed on the DHS Maintenance Medication List are well-established medications that have proven safety and efficacy and are considered primary therapy options for the treatment of common chronic conditions. The list refers to medication names, only formulary dosage forms and strengths are available for dispensing.

Ambulatory pharmacies are authorized to dispense up to 100 days of therapy adjusted up or down to the nearest manufacturer available packaging size in order to enhance efficient dispensing. The DHS Maintenance Medication List and dispensing policy will be reviewed by the DHS Core P&T Committee at least annually or sooner if necessary.

The prescriber may write for up to a 100 day supply of medication not listed on the DHS Maintenance Medication List. In this event, the facility ambulatory pharmacy has discretion on the day supply dispensed to the patient in order to maximize patient safety. The pharmacy is not authorized to adjust the dispensing quantity to the nearest package size for medications not listed on the DHS Maintenance Medication List.

PROCEDURE:

Medications shall be dispensed according to all applicable federal, state, local statutes, and regulations:

1. Prescribers should consider up to a 100 day supply of medication therapy once the patient has achieved stability on the current medication regimen and will be maintained on the same drug regimen for at least the next three months.
2. The prescriber must note on the prescription for a quantity less than or equal to 100 days of medication therapy.
3. Prescriptions written for a 100 day supply are allowed a maximum of 3 refills.
4. Prescriptions for medications listed on the DHS Maintenance Medication List may be adjusted up or down in quantity by the DHS facility ambulatory pharmacy to the nearest manufacturer available package size, not to exceed a maximum of 100 day supply.
5. The prescription will be dispensed as written unless modified by a pharmacist according to California pharmacy law and regulations.²
6. Exception: Aspirin 81mg oral tablet may be dispensed up to a quantity of 120 days of therapy.

ATTACHMENTS/FORMS:

Appendix A: DHS Maintenance Medication List

REFERENCES/AUTHORITY:

1. L. Osterberg and T. Blaschke. Adherence to Medication. *New England Journal of Medication* 2005; 353:487-497
2. California Pharmacy Law and Regulations 2013. California Board of Pharmacy.
http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/laws_regs/lawbook.pdf