


**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NURSING CARE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
PROCEDURE**

Title:	Medication Use	Number:	W40.01
Reference:	RCW 18.130.160 RCW 18.130.175 WAC 246-840-750 through 246-840-780		
Contact:	Paula R. Meyer, MSN, RN, FRE Executive Director Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission		
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Approved:	 Tracy Rude, LPN Chair Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission		

PURPOSE:

Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS) is an abstinence-based program. WHPS expects nurses in the program to remain free of all potentially dependence-producing medication, absent a medical need.

Nurses should use one primary prescriber, one dentist, and one pharmacy and inform their case manager. See the *WHPS Handbook* and *Talbott Medication Guide for a Safe Recovery* for quick medication management guides.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Prescription Reporting
 - A. Before agreeing to the use of non-emergent, potentially dependence-producing medications, WHPS strongly encourages the nurse to consult with their case manager.
 - B. The nurse must notify WHPS as soon as possible of any potentially dependence-producing prescriptions and require the prescriber to submit the WHPS Prescription Information Form.
 - C. The Prescription Information Form includes:
 1. WHPS disclosure letter.
 2. Diagnosis and medication regimen, to include dosage, schedule and expiration.
 3. Appointment frequency.
 4. Medication compliance.
 5. Safety to practice while taking medications as prescribed.

6. A copy of the nurse's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) report.
- D. If WHPS does not receive documentation of prescribed medications, WHPS may consider the prescription use to be unauthorized.

II. Medication Review

- A. The case management team will document all Prescription Information Forms in the nurse's electronic file. A case note will accompany any unapproved prescriptions including the rationale and action taken.
- B. The case management team will compare all positive drug tests with the nurse's approved prescription list. If appropriate documentation is not in place, WHPS may consider the use of a prescribed medication as unauthorized substance use.
- C. The WHPS medical director will review all initial Prescription Information Forms for approval or follow-up with the prescriber that include *Talbott Medication Guide* Class A/B medications, including Gabapentin. The medical director reviews the Prescription Information Form, including the prescriber's determination of the nurse's safety to practice and documents the review in the case notes.
- D. The medical director may query the WA Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP) database as needed to aid in medication management reviews. The medical director will place the PMP report in the case notes.
- E. The medical director will review all prescriptions for long-term use (greater than 90 days) of potentially dependence-producing medications. The medical director may consult with other specialists or require additional assessments.
- F. A nurse using long-term opioids requires the provider to submit a Written Agreement for Treatment to WHPS. The prescriber must also submit a Prescription Information Form every 90 days.

III. Medication Referral

- A. WHPS may require specialty evaluations in some circumstances (e.g., pain management and psychiatry). WHPS may require the nurse to cease practice during the evaluation period.
- B. The nurse will schedule the initial appointment within 30 days and notify WHPS of the evaluator, location, appointment date, and fax number.
- C. The nurse must sign any necessary Releases of Information to allow communication between WHPS and the nurse's medical providers.
- D. The specialty evaluator will submit a written report to WHPS that addresses the appropriateness, rationale, and ongoing need for prescribed treatment and medications, and recommendations for alternatives (if available). WHPS requires the evaluator's determination of the nurse's ability to practice safely while using medication. If safety to practice is a concern, WHPS will require the nurse to cease practice.
- E. WHPS requires the nurse to comply with all evaluation recommendations as determined by the WHPS medical director.