Medication Use

Procedure:	C40.04
Reference:	RCW 18.130.160 - Finding of unprofessional conduct—Orders—Sanctions—Stay—Costs—Stipulations. RCW 18.130.175 - Physician health and voluntary substance use disorder monitoring programs *(as amended by 2023 c 425)*. WAC 246-840-750 - Philosophy governing voluntary substance use monitoring programs. WAC 246-840-760 - Definitions of terms used in WAC 246-840-750 through 246-840-790. WAC 246-840-770 - Approval of substance use monitoring programs WAC 246-840-780 - Conditions for participants entering the approved substance use monitoring program. WAC 246-840-790 - Substance use disorder monitoring stipend program
Applies to:	CARES Director or Designee, Case Managers, Nurse and Nursing Assistant Participants
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Purpose

Compassion, Accountability, Recovery, Empowerment & Safety (CARES) is an abstinence-based program. Nurses and nursing assistants (participants) are expected to abstain from all potentially dependence-producing medication, absent a medical need.

Participants should use one primary prescriber, one dentist, and one pharmacy. See the *CARES Handbook* and *Talbott Medication Guide for a Safe Recovery* for quickmedication management guides.

Definitions N/A

Process: Prescription Reporting

Steps	Person(s)/Entity Involved	Activity or Event(s)
1	Nurse and Nursing Assistant Participants/ CARES Director or Designee	A. The participant's prescriber must report all medications on the CARES Prescription Information Form. The CARES Director or designee will review all initial Prescription Information Forms. The prescriber will report all medications to CARES at least every 12 months. B. The participant must notify CARES of any new prescriptions when initiated and have the provider submit the updated CARES Prescription Information form. C. The participant's provider must submit the updated CARES Prescription Information Form quarterly for any Schedule II-IV medications. D. If the participant tests positive because of a known prescribed medication and does not have a Prescription Information Form on file, CARES immediately contacts the participant. CARES instructs the participant to contact their prescriber to have them fax the Prescription Information Form to CARES as soon as possible.

Process: Medication Review

Steps	Person(s)/Entity Involved	Activity or Event(s)
1	Case Managers/ CARES Director or Designee	The CARES Director or designee will review all initial Prescription Information Forms. When prescriptions include Schedule I I-IV medications on a long-term basis, then the CARES Director or designee may require the PCP to determine safety to practice.

Process: Medication Referral

Steps	Person(s)/Entity Involved	Activity or Event(s)
1	Case Managers/	CARES may require specialty evaluations in some circumstances (e.g., pain management and

	Nurse and Nursing Assistant Participants	psychiatry). CARES may require the participant to cease practice during the evaluation period. • The evaluator shall submit a written report to CARES that addresses the appropriateness, rationale, and ongoing need for prescribed treatment and medications, and recommendations for alternatives (if available). CARES requires the evaluator's determination of the participant's ability to practice safely while using medication. If practicing safely is a concern, CARES will require the participant to cease practice.

Revision History:

W40.03 - January 10, 2025
W40.02 - March 11, 2022
W40.01 - March 13, 2020
W09.01 - January 16, 2019