

Connecticut Children's Pain Ordering Guideline

Principles of orders for symptom management:

1. Consider scheduling medications if an ongoing need is expected
2. Ordered interval, such as every 4 hours PRN, should be based on duration of action of intervention
3. **When writing more than one PRN pain order, clearly identify primary medication order (see examples).**
4. **Prioritize other PRN orders to treat the same symptom by adding clarifying statements to establish priorities (see examples).**

Additional principles for managing children's pain:

5. Do NOT order analgesic or analgesic dose by pain severity score.
6. Maximize the opioid-sparing effects of non-opioids. Consider scheduling medication if an ongoing need is expected
7. Be aware of combination medications, such as those containing acetaminophen, and monitor total dose of being ordered and administered to prevent toxic exposure.
8. Titrate opioids to patient response. Switch opioids only for true adverse reactions and not lack of response or dose duration failure – in these cases, increase the dose or frequency of the opioid depending on reason for failure.
9. Recognize that oral medications may be used in equivalent doses to IV medications and with similar effect. If the patient is tolerating oral intake, switch to oral medications when possible.
10. When multiple routes are ordered, the CCMC policy clarifies that the nurse should preferentially consider administering the medication orally, then IV, then rectal, but improved clarity is always appreciated.
11. Treat pain Holistically (consider pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic, functional and integrated medicine treatments)

When questions, concerns or advice needed – Consult Pain Services in Sunrise and/or page the Pain Management beeper and/or call the Pain office at 837-5207.

EXAMPLES

PRN Pain	Unclear orders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acetaminophen 650 mg IV every 6 hours PRN pain • Acetaminophen 650 mg PO every 6 hours PRN pain • Ibuprofen 400 mg every 6 hours PRN pain • Oxycodone/acetaminophen 5/325 mg tab 1 tab PO every 3 hours PRN moderate to severe pain
	Clear orders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ibuprofen 400 mg every 6 hours (principle # 1) • Acetaminophen 650 mg PO every 6 hours PRN pain (principle # 3) • Acetaminophen 650 mg IV every 6 hours PRN pain if not tolerating PO liquids (principle # 4 & 10) • Oxycodone 5mg tab 1 tab PO every 3 hours PRN pain not relieved one hour after receiving acetaminophen (principle # 4& 6)
PRN Pain	Unclear orders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxycodone/acetaminophen 5/325 mg tab 1 tab PO every 3 hours PRN pain score of < 5 • Oxycodone 5 mg tab 1 tab PO every 3 hours PRN moderate to severe pain • Morphine 2 mg IV every 1 hour PRN severe pain > 6 • TENS unit may be applied for 20 minutes every hour PRN pain
	Clear orders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxycodone/acetaminophen 5/325 mg 1 tab PO every 3 hours PRN pain (principle # 2, 3 & 5) • Oxycodone 5 mg tab 1 tab PO every 3 hours PRN pain not relieved 1 hour after oxycodone/acetaminophen administered, for up to 10 mg of oxycodone every 3 hours (principle # 3-8) • Morphine 2 mg IV every 1 hour PRN severe pain of sudden onset or pain not relieved with 10mg oxycodone. Call HO when given (principle # 4, 5, 7-9) • TENS to area of pain for up to 20 minutes per hour every hour PRN pain. To be given in addition to, not instead of analgesics (principle # 11)

PRN Nausea & Vomiting	Unclear orders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ondansetron 4 mg IV every 6 hours PRN nausea or vomiting • Lorazepam 1 mg PO every 6 hours PRN nausea or vomiting • Lorazepam 1 mg IV every 6 hours PRN nausea or vomiting • Dronabinol 2.5 mg PO every 6 hours PRN nausea or vomiting
	Clear orders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ondansetron 4 mg IV every 6 hours (principle #1) • Ativan 1 mg PO every 6 hours PRN nausea or vomiting (principle #2 & 3) • Ativan 1 mg IV every 6 hours PRN nausea or vomiting, if not tolerating liquids PO (principle #3 &10) • Dronabinol 2.5 mg PO every 6 hours PRN nausea or vomiting not relieved with Ativan (principle #4)
PRN Fever	Unclear orders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acetaminophen 650 mg IV every 6 hours PRN fever • Acetaminophen 650 mg PO every 6 hours PRN fever • Ibuprofen 400 mg PO every 6 hours PRN fever
	Clear orders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acetaminophen 650 mg IV every 6 hours PRN fever greater than 38.5 degrees Celsius if also experiencing nausea or vomiting or not tolerating PO • ibuprofen 400 mg PO every 6 hours PRN fever greater than 38.5 degrees Celsius when tolerating PO liquids