

Regulatory Citation(s): | 42 CFR 418.106(b)
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POLICY: Only a physician or a nurse practitioner (in accordance with State law and the patient’s plan of care) may order drugs for the hospice’s patients.

PROCEDURE:

1. Both telephone and written orders for medications are documented in the patient’s clinical record and include:
 - a. date of the order
 - b. name of the medication
 - c. dose, route and frequency
 - d. purpose (if PRN and/or antibiotic)
 - e. the quantity to be dispensed if filling for a home patient and
 - f. whether the medication is related or not related to the patient’s terminal illness and related conditions

2. When the order is verbal:
 - a. it must be given only to a licensed nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or physician; and
 - b. the individual receiving the order must record and sign it immediately and have the prescribing person sign it within seven (7) days or sooner, in accordance with State and Federal regulations .

3. Verbal and signed orders for medications are documented in the patient’s clinical record and the medication profile is updated accordingly.

4. The RN Case Manager or designee contacts the pharmacy to fulfill the order.

5. No change may be made to the medication dosage, route or frequency without a physician’s order.

6. A physician’s order is needed to discontinue medications.

7. Physician orders for medications may not be texted.

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