

Pain Management: PRN Medications

Which PRN Pain Medication Can I Give?

PRN Pain Medications must be given according to the Physician's order for a designated pain range or clinical scenario.

All PRN Pain Medications must provide the RN specific directions that indicate when the medication is allowed to be administered:

- 1. Pain Level at the time of administration (i.e. Mild, Moderate, Severe, Behavioral Score >2).**

-or-

- 2. Clinical Scenario at the time of administration (Prior to Dressing Change, Breakthrough Pain).**

PRN
HYDROcodone-acetaminophe...
1 Tablet(s), Tablet, PO, Q4H,
PRN, Pain - Moderate, Start
12/16/15 12:32:00

PRN
morphine (morphine 1-2 mg I...
1 mg, Inj, IV Push, Q8H, PRN,
Start 12/16/15 12:38:00, Prior to
Dressing Change

Pain Levels by Scores

Mild Score 1-3

Moderate Score 4-6

Severe Score 7-10

If there are **no medications ordered to treat for the level of pain a patient is experiencing or for an anticipated procedure**, contact the physician to **modify an order or obtain a new order.**



Scenario: Your patient's pain is a 2/10 and the only order available is Norco for moderate pain. What should you do?

Answer: Administration of the Norco would be a violation of the RN scope of practice. The patient has mild pain which may be controlled with non-pharmacologic interventions. If those are unsuccessful, call the physician to obtain a medication order for mild pain.