POLICY

PRN psychoactive medications will be given as ordered by the MD. With very few exceptions, the PRN psychoactive medication will be given only after three individualized non-pharmacological interventions have been attempted. Anytime a resident has a PRN psychoactive medication ordered, the staff will identify how the resident manifests the behavior or symptoms for which the psychoactive medication is ordered. The staff will develop individualized non-pharmacological interventions designed to assist the resident in returning to a state of emotional well-being without the use of PRN psychoactive medications.

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use of PRN psychoactive medications that are consistent with good resident care and regulatory requirements.

PROCEDURES

Prior to giving any psychoactive medication be certain that the resident isn’t in pain, hungry, cold, too hot, in need of a BM or change of position etc

Situations that may justify not using non-pharmacological interventions prior to the use of a PRN psychoactive medication:

1. MD has ordered that no non-pharmacological interventions are to be attempted prior to administration of the psychoactive/anti-anxiety medication.
2. Resident self directs their PRN medication and self-directs their medications
3. Resident is on Hospice services and is experiencing end-of-life anxiety.

Procedure to follow if non-pharmacological interventions are NOT to be used.

1. Identify how the resident manifest anxiety, agitation etc. Note this on the Service Plan.
2. If the physician had ordered not to use non-pharmacological interventions, process the order, noting this on the MAR and on the resident’s service plan.
3. If the resident self directs the PRN psychoactive medication and refuses non-pharmacological interventions, note this on the service plan and on the MAR. (Recommend getting a back up order from the MD that non-pharmacological interventions are not to be attempted.)
3. If resident is at the end of life and experiencing end-of-life anxiety, note this on the service plan and on the MAR. (Recommend that Hospice write and order that administering of PRN psychoactive medication should not be delayed by attempting non-pharmacological interventions.)

Procedure for using non-pharmacological interventions:

1. Identify on the MAR and service plan how the resident manifests their anxiety and/or agitation.
2. Identify at least three individualized non-pharmacological interventions that are to use in an attempt to help the resident return to a state of emotional well-being without the use of the PRN psychoactive/anti-anxiety medication.
3. Note on the MAR and on the service plan how the resident manifests their anxiety and/or agitation and the non-pharmacological interventions to be used prior to administering the medication.
4. When the caregivers first note that a resident is manifesting signs of anxiety or agitation they should rule out potential causes such as pain, hunger, tired, cold, fearful, thirsty etc and take action to alleviate these if they exist.
5. If no obvious cause of the anxiety or agitation is noted, attempt two non-pharmacological interventions in an effort to get the resident back into a state of emotional well-being.
6. If the two non-pharmacological interventions are ineffective, notify the medication aide who will come to the resident’s apartment and will attempt a third non-pharmacological intervention.
7. If the three non-pharmacological interventions have been ineffective, the medication aide will administer the PRN psychoactive medication, noting on the back of the MAR the behavior or symptom the resident is manifesting and which interventions were ineffective.
8. After administering the PRN psychoactive medication the medication aide will re-check the resident to determine if the medication provided the resident with relief and if so will note this on the back of the MAR.
9. If the pharmacological medication isn’t effective, the MD will be notified.
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<th>Policy Title:</th>
<th>PRN Psychoactive/Psychotropic Use Policy and Procedure</th>
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<td>HS.11.50.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approved By:</td>
<td>Kevin Cox</td>
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