

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Correction
Division Of Prisons

SECTION: CARE AND TREATMENT OF
PATIENTS

POLICY # TX II-19

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SUBJECT: PRN (as needed) Medication, administration of

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2007

SUPERCEDES DATE: NONE

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines on the administration of ordered as needed (PRN) medications to insure compliance with the N.C. Nurse Practice Act.

POLICY

Registered Nurses may administer ordered as needed (PRN) medications independently. Licensed Practical Nurses may administer ordered as needed (PRN) medications independently as long as the patient's condition is one in which change is highly predictable and would be expected to occur over a period of days or weeks rather than minutes or hours. The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall not delegate the professional judgment required to implement any treatment or pharmaceutical regimen, therefore, medication technicians can not independently administer ordered as needed (PRN) medications. The medication technician must report observations and patient complaints to the registered nurse or licensed practical nurse who will in turn instruct the medication technician rather or not to administer the PRN medication. The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, who assumes the responsibility for instructing the medication technician to administer the PRN medication, is accountable for making such judgments and decisions, and for recognizing and anticipating the effects of the medication.

Paula Y. Smith, M.D.

6/22/07

Paula Y. Smith, MD, Director of Health Services

Date

SOR: Director of Nursing