



**Volume VII**  
**Book A Medical Staff**  
**Chapter Medical Staff Approved Policies**  
**Policy Number XX**

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## **MEDICATION RANGE ORDERS POLICY**

<b>PURPOSE</b>	The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for medication range orders.
<b>POLICY STATEMENT</b>	<p>Range Orders are those in which the medication dose may vary over a prescribed range, depending on the patient status. Range Orders must be clear for consistent interpretation.</p> <p>The Following Apply to Range Orders: Range Orders with a varied dose are acceptable. Medication orders with a varied dosing interval (i.e.frequency) or route are unacceptable. For the first dose administered, the lower dose in the range should be given unless other directions are specified in the range order. For subsequent doses, the dose given should be based on evaluation of the patient's response to the previous dose.</p>
<b>SCOPE</b>	This policy covers the guidelines for medication range orders issued by physicians and authorized prescribers for patients at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.
<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	Range Orders – Orders for medications in which the medication dose may vary over a prescribed range, depending on the patient status.

## **MEDICATION RANGE ORDERS PROCEDURE**

<b>Range Order Requirements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Range orders are a type of medication order for which the following apply:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●the range order must be clear for consistent interpretation</li><li>●the medication order may have a varied dose range</li></ul></li></ol>
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- the medication order may not have a varied dosing interval (i.e. frequency) for the range order
- the medication order may not have a varied route for the range order

### **Administration of range orders**

2. The following apply to the administration of range orders.
  - For the first dose administered, the lower dose in the range should be given unless other directions are specified in the range order.
  - For subsequent doses, the dose given should be based on evaluation of the patient's response to the previous dose and assessment of the patient's current condition or needs.

#### **Examples – Acceptable Range Orders:**

- Diphenhydramine 25-50 mg po every 6 hours prn itching
- Diphenhydramine 25 mg po for mild itching or 50 mg IV for severe itching every 6 hours
- Diphenhydramine 25-50 mg every 6 hours IV until tolerates liquids then give po for itching
- Diphenhydramine 50 mg IV first dose then 25-50mg IV every 6 hours prn itching
- Note: Range orders may be written with a dash or the term "or" (i.e. 25-50mg vs 25 or 50 mg). The dose administered, including an increment within the range, must be documented as administered.

#### **Examples – Unacceptable Range Orders:**

- Diphenhydramine 25 mg every 4-6 hours prn itching.
- Diphenhydramine 25 mg IV or po every 6 hours prn itching

### **Clarification**

3. Range orders that do not meet the requirements specified must be clarified with the prescriber.

### **Documentation**

4. Medication range orders will be documented in the same manner as other medication orders and administration of medications for the patient in accord with institution policy.

### **REFERENCES:**

- 1.JCAHO Standard MM 3.20
- 2.MDACC Safety Standards for Medication Use

**Approvals:**

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