



Volume VII
Book A Medical Staff
Chapter 1 Medical Staff Approved Policies
Policy Number XX

Last Revised: xx/xx/xx

MEDICATION TAPER ORDERS POLICY

PURPOSE	This policy is to establish guidelines for medication taper orders.
POLICY STATEMENT	<p>Taper Orders are those in which the dose is decreased by a designated amount with each dosing interval</p> <p>Taper orders shall include the starting dose, the entire taper, the medication amount for each step of the taper, and frequency of the taper.</p>
SCOPE	This policy covers medication orders for taper dosing orders issued by physicians and authorized prescribers for all patients at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.
DEFINITIONS	Taper Orders – Orders in which the dose is decreased by a designated amount with each dosing interval.

MEDICATION TAPER ORDERS PROCEDURE

Taper order requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Taper orders are a type of medication order for which the following apply:<ul style="list-style-type: none">●the medication dose is decreased by a designated amount with each dosing interval●the medication order shall include the starting dose, the entire taper, the medication amount for each step of the taper, and the frequency of the taper <p>Examples – Acceptable taper orders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">●Continue Prednisone 20 mg po for 2 days. Then taper in 5 mg steps every day, then discontinue.●Give Prednisone 20 mg po for 2 days, then taper dose on successive days to give 15 mg for 1 day, then 10 mg for 1
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day, 5 mg for 1 day, then discontinue

Examples – Unacceptable taper orders:

- Continue Prednisone 20 mg po for 2 days. Taper over 4 days then discontinue
- Taper Prednisone from current dose over next 4 days then discontinue

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| Clarification | 2. Medication taper orders that do not meet the requirements specified must be clarified with the prescriber. |
| Documentation | 3. Medication taper 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:

Committee Review	Names	Date:
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History

Issue Date:	mm/yy	Archival Record:	xxx	
Revision #1:	mm/yy	Archival Record:		xxx
Revision #2:	mm/yy	Archival Record:	xxx	
Revision #3	mm/yy	Archival Record:	xxx	

Next Scheduled Revision: (mm/yy)**Notes:** xxx