

CLINICAL PROCEDURE
Random Pill Counts for Patients Receiving Opioids for the Management of Chronic Nonmalignant Pain

A. EFFECTIVE DATE :	July 1, 2018
B. PURPOSE :	To standardize the procedure for conducting random pill counts for patients with Chronic Opioid Therapy Pain Management Agreements.
C. POLICY	Chronic Opioid Therapy Pain Management Agreement for Patients with Chronic Pain
D. SCOPE:	All Ambulatory Medical Practices
E. DEFINITIONS:	None
F. MATERIALS NEEDED :	Pill count tray Plastic knife Non sterile gloves
G. PROCEDURE (WORKFLOW) :	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient is informed that pill counts may be requested at any time as noted in medication agreement. 2. Pill counts will be obtained when requested by the practitioner at a scheduled office visit and/or at random times between scheduled office visits. 3. Frequency of pill counts will be determined by the practitioner. Annual pill counts are recommended (minimum). 4. Patients will be asked to bring all their medications to every visit, in the original bottles. 5. If the patient is identified for a between scheduled visit pill count, the patient is informed of the request by telephone and a nurse visit is scheduled the same business day. 6. The patient, a licensed staff member and a staff witness (may be clinical or support staff) must be in the room when the pill count is conducted. All three are considered witnesses. 7. The nurse will perform hand hygiene before/after the pill count and wear gloves. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For pill counts from a prescription bottle, empty the medication out onto the pill count tray. b. For pill counts from bubble packs, verify integrity of packaging. 8. Verify by color/shape/size/imprint on the pill and that the pill represents what is on the prescription bottle/bubble pack. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The following web link may be used for verification: http://www.rxlist.com/pill-identification-tool/article.htm b. Pharmacy can also assist in pill identification.

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	<p>9. The nurse will check the date the prescription was filled and calculate quantity left based upon the prescribing instructions.</p> <p>10. Document completion of pill count in the patient's record.</p> <p>11. For pill counts from a prescription bottle, return medication to the original container</p> <p>12. Return prescription bottle/bubble packs to patient in front of patient and witness.</p> <p>13. For pill counts which fail to match, in addition to documenting in the patient record, the provider will be notified verbally by the staff completing the count.</p>
14. ATTACHMENTS:	None

[END OF PROCEDURE]