

## Medical Affairs: Max Cumulative Dose for PHENobarbital

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### What's Changed?

A new process requires providers to enter a client-specific maximum cumulative dose of PHENobarbital for the entire admission (not limited to the first 48 hours) when treating alcohol withdrawal using the PHENobarbital (CIWA-Ar) order set.

### Key Updates:

- The previous wording “within initial 48 hours” is now “for that admission” to allow for continued dosing, as long as it stays within the ordered cumulative max.
- The eMAR has been updated to show:
  - Max cumulative dose ordered
  - Total dose given
  - Remaining allowable dose
  - RN/RPNs are alerted automatically when administering a dose.
- Review the [Physician Practice Alert](#) for more information.

### Actions for Providers:

1. Calculate and Order Max Cumulative Dose:
  - Manually determine the appropriate max dose for the admission.
  - Consider doses from recent admissions.
  - Enter this value into the order set.
2. Respond to eMAR Alerts:
  - If dose required exceeds the limit, RN/RPN will contact you STAT.
  - Reassess the patient to determine if continued alcohol withdrawal treatment is appropriate and update orders accordingly.
3. Reassess Daily (First 48 Hours):
  - Collaborate with the Most Responsible Nurse to monitor symptoms and adjust treatment as needed.

### Consult with Addiction Medicine specialist if needed:

- [Addiction Medicine Consult Service \(AMCS\)](#): Use the [Online Physician Scheduling System](#) to find contact information for the available provider for your site. *Nurses can contact AMCS directly after initial consult is requested by provider.*
- If AMCS unavailable: Nurse, pharmacist, or provider can call [the BC Centre on Substance Use 24/7 Clinician Line at \(778\) 945 – 7619](#).
  - For after hours perinatal substance use consultation support, providers can contact BC Women's Hospital 24/7 by paging 604-875-2161 and request the Perinatal Addiction Service Doctor on Call.