

Challenges From The Prescriber POV

James L. Sullivan, MD, FAAFP



Objectives

1. Review elements required in a prescription per Federal regulation.
2. Discuss the physician's patient care workflow associated with issuing a prescription.
3. Identify the benefits and the pitfalls of electronic prescribing.

Drugs!

- Currently >20,000 prescription drugs are approved for marketing
- 5.8 billion prescriptions were filled in the US in 2018
- Net medicine spending in the US will increase from \$344 billion in 2018 to \$420 billion in 2023

Don't Do Drugs!

- 1.3 million people went to US EDs due to adverse drug effects in 2014, and about 124,000 died from those events.
- An estimated \$200 billion per year is spent in the US on the unnecessary and improper use of medication

Turn Head And Cough

- Physician-patient interaction
 - Clinic, hospital, urgent care, ER, phone
- Chief complaint (“your what hurts?”)
- History (Past Med Hx, current symptoms)
- Physical exam, measurements (vital signs), testing (labs, imaging)

Formulate a differential diagnoses

- Match appropriate treatments with most likely diagnosis based on
 - Education and training
 - Evidence based knowledge
 - Standards of care
 - Research
 - Most recent practices

How About Leeches?

- Determine appropriate medication to treat the problem
- 20,000 prescription meds
- References: Clinical Pharmacology, Lexicomp/Lexidrug, Epocrates, Physicians Desk Reference, Prescribers Digital Reference, Nursing Drug Reference, UpToDate, Drugs.Com, RXList

Round Hole Square Peg

- Dose, formulation, route, frequency, length of treatment
- Allergies
- Interactions with other meds
- Side effects

Required Elements of a Prescription

- Date of issue
- Patient's name and address
- Practitioner's name, address, and DEA registration number
- Drug name
- Drug strength
- Dosage form; route of administration
- Quantity prescribed
- Directions for use (SIG)
- Number of refills
- Signature of prescriber

Fremont Health
FAMILY CARE

5801 Fremont Medical Park Dr. | Fremont, NE 68025 | 402-737-1000
905 2nd Street | Dodge, NE 68044 | 402-553-2246
754 Main Street | North Platte, NE 68901 | 402-652-2636
1230 E 30th Street | Wahoo, NE 68086 | 402-577-5092
24110 W Dodge Road | Omaha, NE 68130 | 402-779-3251

MICHAEL BRILLWAL, DO	782796730
JAMES SULLIVAN, MD	809342829
LARRY KIBBE, PA-C	846428810
BETH BELMONT, APRN	881220508
BRYTANY BURBACH, APRN	880617400
LIZ DUNKALL, APRN	903405880

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____
ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

Weight _____, Height _____

Signature _____

Greek to Me

- RX Latin for recipe
- PO “per os”
 - by mouth
- PRN “pro re nata”
 - as needed
- Q “quaque”
 - every
- SIG “signa”
 - directions
- HS “hora somni”
 - at bedtime (QHS)

Written RX Flaws

- Legibility
- Abbreviations
- Omissions
- Incorrect calculations
- Number conventions

0.5 yes .5 no .50 no

5 yes 5.0 no 50.0 no

Electronic Prescribing

- Eliminates legibility and omission errors
- More precise ordering
 - Clinical decision support at point of care
 - Database search
 - Prescription history easily accessible
- Saves time
- Alerts:
 - Allergies
 - Drug interactions
 - Duplicate therapy
 - Dose parameters

To Err Is Human

- Electronic systems are only as good as the data being put in
- Workarounds, repetition, bad habits
- Alerts can be overridden

Controlled Medications

- Schedule 1
 - marijuana, heroin, LSD, ecstasy
- Schedule 2
 - cocaine, meth, morphine, oxycodone, Adderall, Ritalin, Norco (hydrocodone)
- Schedule 3
 - Tylenol with codeine, ketamine, anabolic steroids, and testosterone.
- Schedule 4
 - Xanax, Ativan, Valium, Ambien, phentermine

Controlled Medications

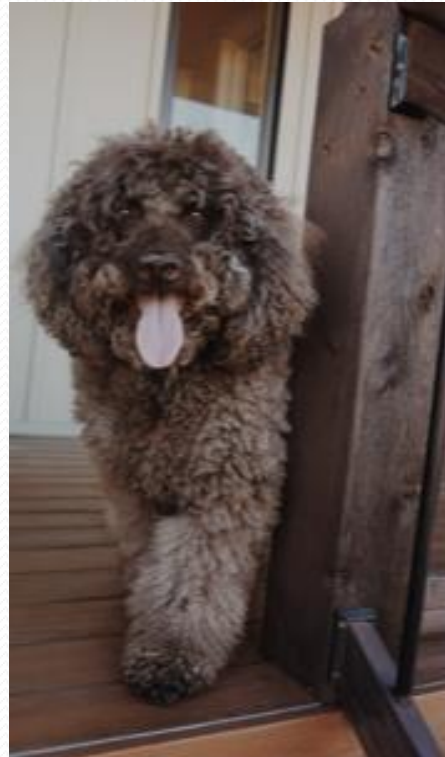
- Schedule 2 must be written , have a wet signature, and non-refillable
- Schedule 3 and 4 can be written, faxed or verbal, and are refillable
- E-prescribing for controlled meds will soon be mandated (in next 1-2 years)
- Will require 2 factor authentication
 - Prescriber password
 - Fingerprint reader
 - Tokens that generate codes

“Doctor I need a new RX because”

- Spilled my entire bottle of hydros in the toilet
- The RX was stolen out of my locked car
- The pharmacist told me there are too many zeros in the quantity

And yes.....

- My dog ate it!!!



Medication Prescribing

- A very involved, complex process
- Requires a team of highly trained, knowledgeable professionals (providers, nurses, pharmacy staff)
- Precision and attention to detail are essential

- Electronic prescribing can have an enormous impact on reducing prescribing errors