

F756 Drug Regimen Review



§483.45 (c) "The drug regimen of each resident must be reviewed at least once a month by a licensed pharmacist. The pharmacist must report any irregularities to the attending physician and the facility's medical director and director of nursing, and these reports must be acted upon."

Opioid Stewardship Implication: As a high-risk drug class, a thorough review of opioid medications is an important part of the monthly DRR in order to identify any irregularities with indication, necessity for the drug, dosing, titration or adverse consequences.



What's Required

The Drug (Medication) Regimen Review (DRR/MRR) is a thorough evaluation of resident medications in order to improve outcomes and minimize adverse outcomes or risks.

Policies and procedures must be developed and maintained for the monthly MRR that include:

- Time frames for MRR process
- Step-wise process for handling irregularities that requires urgent action to protect the resident

Irregularities found in the medication regimen review related to opioids could include:

- Unnecessary opioid medication(s)
- Opioids being used without adequate indication or monitoring
- Excessive dose or duplicate therapy
- Adverse events or consequences related to the opioid use
- Interactions between opioid and another substance (such as a medication, herbal product, or food)

The MRR requires collaboration between the pharmacist, prescriber, other health care professionals, and the resident and/or their representative to:

- Develop, implement, monitor, and revise, if needed, interventions to prevent or manage each resident's pain;
- Establish goals for treatment; AND
- Work together to reconcile any discrepancies identified during the medication regimen review process



Steps to Facility Compliance

- Develop, implement, and educate staff on policies and procedures for monthly medication regimen reviews
- Ensure time frames are put in place for MRR process
- Create step-wise approach for responding to irregularities identified in the MRR, including urgent/time-sensitive recommendations



How PharMerica Can Help

- Provide opioid medication recommendations when appropriate, collaborating with facility staff/caregivers to ensure optimal drug selection and dosing
- Attend behavioral meetings, participating in collaborative discussion with facility care team
- Provide staff education for pain management regimen and side effect monitoring
- Remain cognizant of warning signs of opioid side effects (e.g., constipation, nausea, sleepiness, depression) during routine MRRs and nursing note reviews, and report and provide corrective action plans when appropriate