

To: YNHHS prescribers, pharmacists, and nursing staff

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Subject: Medication administration consolidation – COVID-19

Date: March 31th, 2020

S: There is a need to evaluate clustering administration of medications in order to limit health care worker exposure to COVID-19 and reduce the need and waste of PPE.

B: It is imperative to conserve PPE at Yale-New Haven Health System, given the likelihood of a national shortage with PPE related to a surge in COVID-19 patients. In addition, it is crucial to minimize exposure of healthcare workers to COVID-19 patients. Many medications are scheduled at various times throughout the day, potentially resulting in multiple interactions between health care practitioners and patients.

A: In an effort to reduce the use of PPE, medication administration times can be consolidated and re-scheduled in Epic upon pharmacist review and verification of: (1) appropriateness of schedule, (2) drug-drug and drug-food interactions and (3) timing regarding meals.

R: For patients with confirmed COVID-19, consider consolidating medications to recommended COVID-19 administration times, as outlined below. Pharmacists will evaluate consolidation of medication administration times during order verification and during clinical patient review based on the recommended frequencies below. In addition, pharmacy will evaluate medication necessity to further minimize the number of medications administered. If the nurse or prescriber identifies additional opportunities for administration time adjustments to improve consolidation, they should utilize their judgement and call pharmacy for any assistance retiming medications.

Frequency or Specific Medication	Standard Administration Times	COVID-19 Administration Times
Every 4 hours	No set standard time	Consider changing to 0100/0500/0900/1300/1700/2100
Every 4 hours scheduled*	0000/0400/0800/1200/1600/2000	0100/0500/0900/1300/1700/2100
Every 6 hours	No set standard time	Consider changing to 0900/1500/2100/0300
		If medication deemed urgent, include a “Now” dose, then if possible, adjust to a COVID-19 administration time
Every 6 hours scheduled*	0000/0600/1200/1800	0900/1500/2100/0300
Every 8 hours	No set standard time	Consider changing to 0500/1300/2100 (same as TID)
		If medication deemed urgent, include a “Now” dose, then if possible, adjust to a COVID-19 administration time
Every 8 hours scheduled*	0600/1400/2200	0500/1300/2100
Every 12 hours	No set standard time	Consider changing to 0900/2100 (same as BID)
		If medication deemed urgent, include a “Now” dose, then if possible, adjust to a COVID-19 administration time

Every 12 hours scheduled*	0800/2000	0900/2100 (same as BID)
Every 24 hours	No set standard time	Consider changing to one of the every 6 hours times: 0900/1500/2100/0300; If medication deemed urgent, include a "Now" dose, then if possible, adjust to a COVID-19 administration time
TID	0900/1400/2100	0500/1300/2100 (same as every 8 hours)
QID	0800/1200/1800/2100	0900/1300/1700/2100 (can usually be coordinated around meals)
Levothyroxine oral	0600	0500
Warfarin	1800	2100
Gentamycin IV, high-dose only at BH	2000	2100

*These frequencies refer to frequencies that have the word, "scheduled" in the Epic order and automatically default to routine scheduled times.

Reviewed by:

Individual Stakeholder Name	Month/Day/Year
YNHHS COVID-19 Inpatient Care	3-31-2020
YNHHS Pharmacy Drug Use Policy Planning Committee	3-30-2020