

**WAC 246-840-4663 Treatment plan—Acute perioperative pain.** The advanced registered nurse practitioner shall comply with the requirements in this section when prescribing opioid analgesics for perioperative pain and shall document completion of these requirements in the patient's record.

(1) The advanced registered nurse practitioner shall consider prescribing nonopioid analgesics as the first line of pain control in patients under the provisions of WAC 246-840-4653, unless not clinically appropriate.

(2) The advanced registered nurse practitioner, or practitioner's authorized designee as defined in WAC 246-470-050, shall conduct queries of the prescription monitoring program (PMP) in accordance with the provisions of WAC 246-840-4990 to identify any Schedule II-V medications or drugs of concern received by the patient, and document in the patient record their review and any concerns.

(3) If the advanced registered nurse practitioner prescribes opioids for effective pain control, such prescription shall be in no greater quantity than needed for the expected duration of pain severe enough to require opioids. A three-day supply or less will often be sufficient; more than a fourteen-day supply will rarely be needed for perioperative pain. The advanced registered nurse practitioner shall not prescribe beyond a fourteen-day supply from the time of discharge without clinical documentation in the patient record to justify the need for such a quantity. For more specific best practices, the advanced registered nurse practitioner may refer to clinical practice guidelines including, but not limited to, those produced by the agency medical directors' group (AMDG), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or the Bree Collaborative.

(4) The advanced registered nurse practitioner shall reevaluate a patient who does not follow the expected course of recovery. If significant and documented improvement in function or pain control has not occurred, the advanced registered nurse practitioner shall reconsider the continued use of opioids, or whether tapering or discontinuing opioids is clinically indicated.

(5) Follow-up visits for pain control should include objectives or metrics to be used to determine treatment success if opioids are to be continued. This includes, at a minimum:

- (a) Change in pain level;
- (b) Change in physical function;
- (c) Change in psychosocial function; and
- (d) Additional planned diagnostic evaluations or other treatments.

(6) If the advanced registered nurse practitioner elects to prescribe a combination of opioids with a medication listed in WAC 246-840-4960 or to a patient known to be receiving a medication listed in WAC 246-840-4960 from another practitioner, such prescribing must be in accordance with WAC 246-840-4960.

(7) If the advanced registered nurse practitioner elects to treat a patient with opioids beyond the six-week time period of acute perioperative pain, the advanced registered nurse practitioner shall document in the patient record that the patient is transitioning from acute pain to subacute pain. Rules governing the treatment of subacute pain, WAC 246-840-4665 and 246-840-4667, shall apply unless there is documented improvement in function or pain control, and there is a documented plan and timing for discontinuation of all opioid medications.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.800 and 2017 c 297. WSR 18-20-086, § 246-840-4663, filed 10/1/18, effective 11/1/18.]