

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NURSING CARE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION**

WHPS Procedure Summary 10.01: Short Term Analgesic Use

Acute pain may occur in those with substance use disorders as a result of trauma, surgery, etc. Therefore, WHPS supports appropriate pain management for nurses with short term need for narcotic analgesics.

SUMMARY

1. Reporting

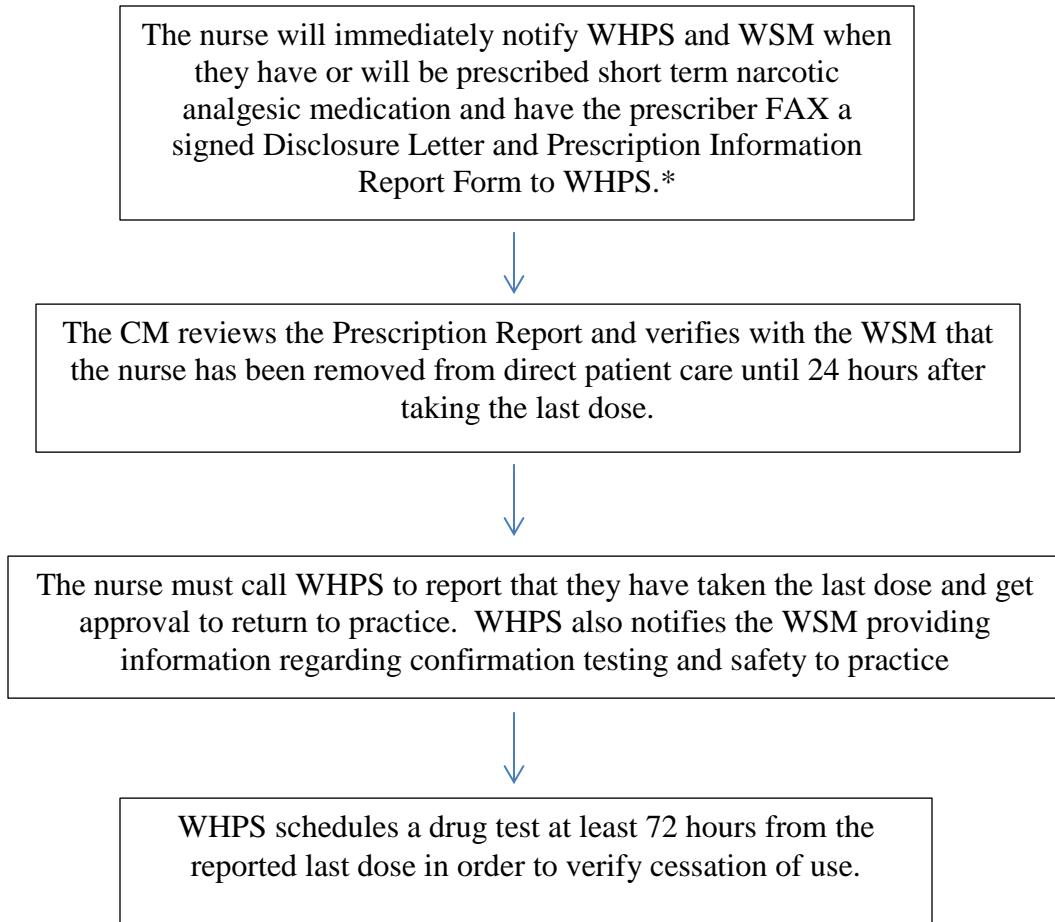
- A. The nurse will immediately notify WHPS and Work Site Monitor (WSM) if they have or will be prescribed short term narcotic analgesic medication and have the prescriber FAX or email a completed Prescription Information Form to WHPS.
- B. Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS) will:
- Review the report including the reason the medication was prescribed, frequency and dose, specific date and time of anticipated last dose, and prescriber's name and contact information.
 - Notify the WSM and request that the nurse is removed from direct patient care whether their condition requires it or not. Explain that the nurse may not provide direct patient care until 24 hours after taking the last prescribed dose, the employer agrees, and WHPS approves.
 - Direct the nurse to call WHPS to report that they have taken their last prescribed dose. Verbally verify with the nurse that they have taken all doses and do not have any medication remaining. If any medication remains, WHPS will direct the nurse to return it to an appropriate take back location.
 - Schedule a drug test at least 72 hours after last dose. It takes at least 72 hours for most analgesics with addiction potential to clear from the body; testing windows may be adjusted depending on the medication.
 - Notify the WSM as to when the nurse may resume direct patient care activities.

- As post treatment testing has not been completed the employer will be provided the following information:

 Name has notified WHPS that he/she has taken their last dose of a prescribed short term pain medication. If you agree he/she may resume direct patient care activities on Date . He/she will be drug screened to reasonably verify discontinued use. Drug screening results will be available in approximately one week. During this period WHPS recommends that you remain observant for any signs of impairment. Contact WHPS at 360-236-2880 with any questions or to report concerns.

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Process Chart



*A positive drug test not supported by a valid Prescription Information Report Form may be considered unauthorized substance use.