SECTION 8A: CLINICAL PRACTICES	POLICY: 8A.4
POLICY: MEDICATIONS PRE & POST INFUSION	PAGE: 1 OF: 3

PURPOSE:

- To promote safety through guidelines and protocols for effective management and utilization of preventative medications prior to and after infusion therapy administration.

POLICY:

- Pre and post medications can be administered orally or intravenously prior to and/or after the administration of infusion therapy drugs.
- Pre and post medications are a common preventative measure for infusion therapy drugs with a high incidence of adverse drug reactions (ADR) during or after the infusion.
    - Pre and post medications may also be utilized for those patients with a higher or known incidence of hypersensitivity or allergic reactions.
- Infusion therapies that frequently include pre and post medications are:
    - IVIg
    - SCIg
    - Biologics
- Common pre and post medications include, but are not limited to:
    - Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
    - Diphenhydramine (Benedryl)
    - Cetirizine (Zyrtec)
    - Methylprednisolone (SoluMedrol)
    - Ondansetron (Zofran)
    - **Hydration:** Sodium Chloride, D5W, Lactated Ringers

PROCEDURE:

- RN shall review the most recent orders from the dispensing pharmacy prior to the infusion.
    - RN shall contact the Agency as needed for clarification of the orders.
- RN shall confirm that the necessary pre and post medications are available prior to mixing or drawing up infusion medications.

ORAL PRE & POST MEDICATIONS

- Oral medications may be provided by the pharmacy or purchased by the patient/caregiver.
- The Patient/Caregiver may self-medicate prior to or post infusion with over-the-counter oral medications such as Acetaminophen and Diphenhydramine with or without a physician order.
- The Patient/Caregiver may self-medicate prior to or post infusion with prescribed medications (such as Clonidine and Ondansetron) as instructed by their physician, without the Agency or RN confirming the prescription or maintaining an order for such on file.
- The Patient/Caregiver may decline or refuse oral pre or post medications.
- Oral PRN pre- and post-medications, including over-the-counter (OTC) medications, may be administered based on patient need and in accordance with manufacturer-labeled dosing instructions when a specific frequency is not ordered.
- When oral PRN medications are self-administered by the patient/caregiver, dosing frequency is expected to align with OTC labeling **or** provider instruction, including maximum daily dose limitations.

- **Clinical Documentation by the RN:**
    - The RN shall document all ordered pre and post oral medications in the “Pre-Medications” section of the Administration Record
        - Documentation shall include the medication name, total dose with measured increment (e.g., mg, g, units), and “PO” for the route
            - If the Patient/Caregiver self-medicated prior to the RN’s arrival and verbally reported administration, the RN may indicate “per Pt” as the route
        - If the Patient/Caregiver refuses or declines an ordered pre or post oral medication, the RN shall check the “Declined” option and document in the narrative note which ordered oral medications were declined and why.
    - The RN shall document any additional / voluntary pre and post oral medications (i.e., any oral medication not specifically ordered with the infusion) in the narrative note.

INTRAVENOUS PRE & POST MEDICATIONS

- Intravenous pre and post medications are provided by the pharmacy that is dispensing the infusion medication(s).
- Intravenous pre and post medications are administered by an Agency RN in accordance with the order for infusion therapy.
- Intravenous PRN pre- and post-medications without a defined frequency or dosing interval in the prescribing order shall be administered as a one-time dose.
- Hydration shall be administered only as indicated and allowed by the order.
    - The Patient/Caregiver cannot request ordered pre-hydration be administered post infusion or ordered post-hydration be administered prior to the infusion.
    - The Patient/Caregiver cannot request pre- or post-hydration be administered concurrent with an infusion.
        - Administration of concurrent hydration must specifically be ordered as such.
- **Clinical Documentation by the RN:**
    - The RN shall document all ordered IV pre and post medications in the “Pre-Medications” section with the medication name, dose with measured increment indicated (e.g., mg, g, units, mL), and route.
    - The RN shall document all ordered IV hydration in the “Hydration” section with the medication name, volume, infusion rate and start and end times.
    - If the Patient/Caregiver refuses/declines an ordered IV pre-medication (including hydration):
        - RN shall contact the ordering provider during the infusion visit to report patient declination of ordered therapy elements and deviation from the Plan of Treatment.
            - The report shall be recorded / included in the narrative note along with the name(s) of the medication(s) declined and why.