

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health

DISPILL PACKS – (policy)

PURPOSE

Standardize practices that assist individuals served to be more independent in the administration of their own medications.

POLICY

- This will apply to all programs and staff that serve WCCMH clients who meet the Dispill Pack Criteria and are in need of this service.
- In order to provide the best care for clients being served, this policy ensures standardization for the monitoring of a client’s personal medications held at WCCMH (all sites including Crisis Residential Services-CRS).
- Dispill Packs will follow a standardized procedure according to the criteria specified in this policy and have a clear start and end date.
- All treatment team members: program supervisor, prescriber, case manager and nurse will be responsible for their role in the medication monitoring and the storage of onsite Dispill Packs.
- All staff overseeing monitoring of medications will follow the same standard process for implementation and ongoing evaluation.

DEFINITIONS

Dispensing Medication Packaging (Dispill pack): Dispill pack is a cold-sealed, multi-dose medication packaging system. Each Dispill pack is made up of 28 individual perforated blisters containing a person's prescribed medication for a specific time and date. Blister packs can be personalized according to each person's prescribed medication schedule. The top of each individual blister pack lists the person's name, the medication within and the time it should be taken. Carrying a Dispill blister pack lets everyone, including all health care providers, know about the medication being prescribed.

Medication Box (Med Box): A container that is kept at WCCMH labeled with the client name and holding the WCCMH prescribed medications as well as any other prescribed medications for that individual which is then referred to as their “take home med box”. The client fills their take home med box transferring their own medications into the box while clinical staff monitors. The nursing staff holds responsibility for assuring that the medications are current, filled and updated on the Medication Administration Record.

Dispill Pack Criteria: In order for a client to be considered for a Dispill Pack, the clinical team must decide that the consumer temporarily requires extra support for medication adherence. Staff must enter a goal in the IPOS to determine how many weeks at a time should be

dispensed, with the expectation that the goal of independence will be achieved. In addition, the consumer must meet ONE of the following criteria:

1. A controlled substance is prescribed, especially if there is a history of substance abuse.
2. Court Ordered treatment.
3. Hospitalized in the past year for non-adherence.
4. Prescribed a complicated medication regimen (i.e. 5 or more Psychotropic medications).
5. Recent suicide ideation, necessitating tighter supervision of medications.

Transitioning from Medication Box to Dispill Pack: All consumers currently using a medication box will be transitioned to Dispill Packs. Individual pill bottles will no longer be stored on site, as pharmacies will now provide Dispill Packs with medications already sorted for daily use. Consumers will initially receive a seven day Dispill Pack picked up at the office or delivered to their home by staff or the pharmacy. Staff will then follow up to monitor adherence and insure that the Dispill pack is helping consumers become more independent in managing their medication. The need for Dispill packs will be reassessed monthly, with documentation indicating the reason why consumers cannot independently dispense their own medication.

PROCEDURE(S)

See procedures manual

REFERENCES/NOTES

There are no additional external references, sources, or notes for this policy.

EXHIBITS

There are no additional exhibits for this policy.