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<b>SUBJECT/TITLE</b> AUTOMATIC STOP ORDERS	<b>ORIGINAL DATE</b> 30-Aug-2007
	<b>REVISION DATES</b> 23-Oct-2008 26-Feb-2009 13-Oct-2011 30-Sep-2019

## OBJECTIVES

To provide guidance to physicians, pharmacy providers, and LTC operators on the use of Automatic Stop Orders in Calgary Zone LTC.

## ELEMENTS

1. Automatic Stop Order Guidelines exist in order to enhance patient safety. Medications vary in their respective side-effect and toxicity profiles and Automatic Stop Orders provide for an additional opportunity for review to prevent inadvertent continuation of higher risk drugs.
2. **If a duration of therapy is not specified** for a formulary medication in **Table 1**, the pharmacist seeks additional information to provide an order clarification, adaptation, or may apply an Automatic Stop to the order regimen if appropriate.
  - 2.1. In situations where a pre-printed order form indicates an order is valid for 90 days, if an order modification is not applied by the pharmacist as per Element 3 below, the duration of 90 days will apply and is deemed to have been assessed as appropriate by the pharmacist. No additional written clarification is required.
3. When a pharmacist is providing an order clarification, adaptation, or applying an Automatic Stop, any order modification should be documented and communicated to the pertinent team members.
  - 3.1. For Automatic Stop orders, at a minimum, the stop date information is to appear clearly on the MAR (paper or electronic) and/or the information is provided to nursing through a reporting mechanism.

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**Table 1**

Automatic Stop	Drug Class/Category	Route
<b>Up to 10 days</b>	Anti-infectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>antibiotics and antifungals</li> <li>antivirals excluding oseltamivir when given according to current outbreak protocol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ophthalmic</li> <li>oral</li> <li>parenteral</li> </ul>
<b>10 days (or next business day)</b>	Narcotics and Controlled Substances <sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>opioids</li> <li>benzodiazepines excluding clobazam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oral short-acting formulations</li> <li>parenteral</li> </ul>
<b>Up to 14 days</b>	Anticoagulants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>heparin, LMWH, DOACs, warfarin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oral</li> <li>parenteral</li> </ul>
	Anti-infectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>antibiotics, antifungals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>topical</li> </ul>
	Sedatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>zopiclone</li> <li>haloperidol</li> <li>dimenhydrinate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oral</li> <li>parenteral</li> </ul>
	Anti-inflammatories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSAIDS, excluding ASA</li> <li>Corticosteroids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oral</li> <li>topical</li> </ul>

**REFERENCES**

- Alberta Health Services Governance Documents:
  - Medication Orders Policy (#PS-93)
  - Medication Orders Procedure (#PS-93-01)
- Alberta Health Legislation:
  - Hospitals Act

<sup>1</sup> Per ACP Standards of Practice, a pharmacist may not adapt Narcotic and Controlled substance.