

Subject: Medical Staff	Procedure: Injectable Benadryl for Acute EPS Reactions	
Last Updated: 10/11/2022	Owner: MCCMH Chief Medical Officer	Pages:

I. **PURPOSE:**

- To define and describe operational guidelines regarding the accessibility and use of Injectable Benadryl prescription orders for the management of acute extrapyramidal side effect (EPS) reactions secondary to antipsychotic medication, observed by licensed community mental health (CMH) medical staff (i.e., Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, and Physician Assistants); and
- To facilitate the expedited access of such an order for Nursing staff.

II. **DEFINITIONS:**

Extrapyramidal side effects (EPS)

Commonly referred to as drug-induced movement disorders, which are among the most common adverse drug effects patients experience from dopamine-receptor blocking agents. A variety of movement phenotypes have since been described along the EPS spectrum, including dystonia, akathisia, and parkinsonism, which occur more acutely, as well as more chronic manifestations of tardive akathisia and tardive dyskinesia...¹

III. **PROCEDURE:**

- A. Injectable Benadryl has been added to the list of MCCMH stock medications on-site for all direct clinic and ACT program nurses.
- B. When an individual is initiated on an antipsychotic medication (first or second generation as applicable) licensed prescribers are recommended to place an order for intramuscular Benadryl in the electronic medical record (EMR) (see exhibit A for instructions on placing an order in FOCUS) to minimize the need for Nursing staff to contact licensed prescribers during off-duty hours for urgent/emergent verbal orders.
 - 1. If a licensed prescriber chooses to enforce this order, it is the responsibility of the prescriber to preemptively discuss with the person served that if unforeseen reactions occur, Benadryl IM may be used.

¹ D'Souza & Hooten, 2022

- 2. The prescriber must also ensure that an appropriate Medication Informed Consent is provided in advance and documented in the person's record, when possible.
- C. Nursing staff will find such an order in the EMR under the "Orders/Labs" section if one is placed by a licensed prescriber. If such an order does not exist in the record, Nursing staff who witness an acute onset of EPS shall follow MCCMH Policy 2-051 "Psychotropic Medication in Community-Based Settings," to obtain an order from the prescriber.
- D. Nursing staff shall follow all administration, dispensing, and disposal processes as described in MCCMH Policy 10-065, Exhibit A "Injectable Medication Documentation Procedure."

IV. REFERENCES:

D'Souza, R., & Hooten, W. (2022). Extrapyramidal Symptoms. National Institute of Health National Library of Medicine. Retrieved from https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK534115/

V. RELATED POLICIES:

- A. MCCMH MCO Policy 2-051 "Psychotropic Medication in Community-Based Settings"
- B. MCCMH MCO Policy 10-065 "Injectable Medication Documentation"
- C. MCCMH MCO Policy 10-065, Exhibit A "Injectable Medication Documentation Procedure"

VI. EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A - How to Place a Standing Order for Benadryl IM

Annual Review Attestation / Revision History:

Revision #:	Revision/Review	Revision Summary:	Reviewer/Reviser:
	Date:		
1	10/11/2022	Creation of Procedure.	Dr. Carmen Serpa

Exhibit A – How to Place a Standing Order for Benadryl IM

Verbal orders given to Nursing will be applied to the CMH Medication section of the EMR and will require prescriber co-signature upon the prescriber's next working day.

As an alternative, FOCUS can provide standing orders for persons served. Prescribers are encouraged to consider using this standing order feature for cases that may benefit from a standing order of IM Benadryl and minimize the need for last-minute verbal order requests.

If a licensed prescriber chooses to enforce this order, it is the responsibility of the prescriber to preemptively discuss with the person served that if unforeseen reactions occur, Benadryl IM may be used. The prescriber must also ensure that an appropriate Medication Informed Consent is provided in advanced and documented in the person's record, when possible.

To place a Benadryl IM order:

1. Click on "Orders/Labs" in the individual's medical chart.

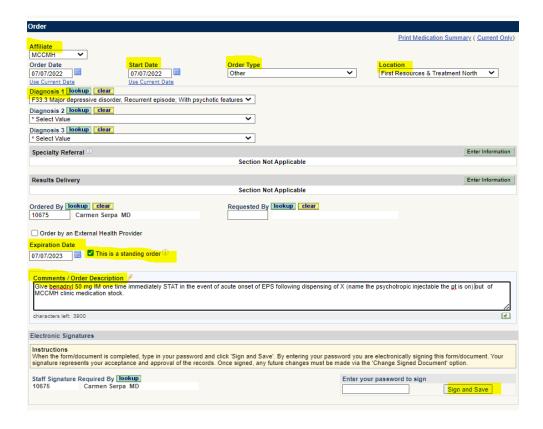


Click on the plus sign () next to "Add Order."



- 3. When a window opens, fill out all fields highlighted below.
 - a. Under Order Type click "Other."
 - b. Check the "Standing Order Box."

- c. Select a minimum of a 1-year expiration date.
- d. In the comment section write the order. The content shown below is only an example. The order must be clear and specific. Dosage may change based on size or age of population. Clarify this medication is to be used from "MCCMH Medication Stock."



4. When the order is signed, it is visible (as shown below) in the person's record.

