



Subject: Clinical Practice	Procedure: Reducing Medication Stockpiling	
Last Updated: 08/24/2023	Owner: MCCMH Chief Medical Officer	Pages: 3

I. PURPOSE:

To create awareness of and mitigate risks associated with stockpiling medications. This procedure aims to support MCCMH's directly operated service providers in helping individuals gain insight about the risks that medication stockpiling may result in.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Medication Stockpiling

The inappropriate accumulation of prescribed medication for later use.

III. PROCEDURE:

- A. MCCMH understands there are dangers associated with medication stockpiling. When medication expires its effectiveness can be altered or it can become spoiled. Having a bulk of medications can also be a precursor to suicide and self-injury, or result in the inadvertent medication access by pets, children, or other vulnerable populations.
- B. A licensed prescriber should only provide enough medication supply to last until the individual's next planned visit, unless a special clinical circumstance requires the prescriber to do otherwise.
- C. A prescriber is responsible for appropriately discontinuing in the electronic medical record (EMR) any medications that an individual will no longer need according to their treatment plan.
- D. When a dosage is changed, the licensed prescriber must educate the individual served on the importance of discussing with their pharmacists how to appropriately discard any discontinued medication(s), as applicable.
- E. When a medication is discontinued, the prescriber and nursing team actively communicate about these changes. Nursing teams must follow-up with the individual to encourage and educate them on safe discarding of old medications.

- F. When notified of a medication discontinuation order, nursing teams assist prescribers to ensure that the individual’s pharmacy has processed the changes in the medication.
- G. Nursing teams from the MCCMH’s Directly Operated Services conduct individual and/or group education about stockpiling and safe discarding of medication. This education is done during a nurse’s first encounter with an individual/guardian and ongoing for all individuals who undergo a discontinuation or changes to their medication(s).
 - 1. If the nursing staff or case manager assists in disposing of any medication, the team member must get verbal consent before disposing of any medications and document it in the EMR. Team members must follow the appropriate disposing guidelines as specified by the Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)
 - 2. Team members may also opt to share public resources that individuals can access in the community. For example, resources shared via the Macomb County Health Department Website.
- H. When individuals meet MCCMH criteria for being at elevated risk for harm to self and to others, treatment teams must make extra efforts to educate them on the practices described above and additional strategies to mitigate risk of stockpiling and taking too many medications.
 - 1. This may include: implementing, with the individual’s approval, the use of a locked medication box that a family member could assist them with; and/or involving an individual’s close designee who could assist in the appropriate disposing of stockpiled medications and with whom the team could confirm this is done, given an appropriate release of information is in place.
 - 2. For these individuals, licensed prescribers may limit access by providing smaller supplies of medication with more frequent refills, as deemed appropriate.

IV. REFERENCES:

Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) 2022 Behavioral Health Standards Manual, §2. E., “Medication Use.”

Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Hazardous Waste/Drug Disposal.

V. RELATED POLICIES:

MCCMH MCO Policy 2-051, “Psychotropic Medications in Community-Based Settings”

VI. EXHIBITS:

None.

Annual Review Attestation / Revision History:

Revision #:	Revision/Review Date:	Revision Summary:	Reviewer/Reviser:
1	08/24/2023	Creation of Procedure.	Carmen Serpa