

# GENERAL MEDICAL 8.0

## Drug Maintenance and Dispensation -- 8.3

### Updating Drugs on the P.H.N. Public Health Drug Formulary -- 8.3.a

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**Date Issued:** December 31, 1998

**Date Last Revised:** March 23, 2011

**Signature:**



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#### **POLICY**

The P.H.N. Public Health Drug Formulary, which lists those prescription drugs used in the provision of public health services that are dispensed by public health nurses, must be approved by the Board of Pharmacy and reviewed and updated on a timely and regular basis.

#### **APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all public health nurses (including family planning nurse practitioners) who are responsible for dispensing drugs under protocol in the delivery of general public health services. This does not pertain to nurse practitioners with prescription privileges or physicians. The policy applies to prescription drugs only.

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide the public health nurse a legal basis by which he/she may dispense drugs, as well as to insure that health department patients receive current and effective drug treatment.

#### **PROCEDURE**

As needed, the Office of Nursing Services of the Bureau of Health Services will

send Regional Health Officers, Nursing Directors, and Section Chiefs the current **Public Health Drug Formulary** approved by the Board of Pharmacy, along with a memo requesting the following:

1. A list of prescription drugs that need to be added to the formulary.
2. A list of prescription drugs that are no longer dispensed by public health nurses and may possibly be deleted from the formulary.

A justification/rationale must be provided for each of the above.

Regional Health Officers, Nursing Directors and Section Chiefs are responsible for making the approved formulary available to counties and programs, compiling their lists, and submitting their requests/recommendations to the Office of Nursing Services.

When all drug lists are received and tabulated in the Office of Nursing Services, the Medical Services Evaluation Committee (MSEC) will review the lists for approval. Following MSEC approval, the Office of Nursing Services will submit the request for additional drugs through the Department's pharmacy liaison to the Board of Pharmacy. The Board of Pharmacy will provide a final approved formulary to the Office of Nursing Services. The formulary will then be sent to Regional Health Officers, Nursing Directors and Section Chiefs for distribution.

In case of the need to add any drug(s) to the approved formulary at times other than the routine biannual review, Regional Health Officers, Nursing Directors and Section Chiefs must provide this information to the Office of Nursing Services. The request will then be processed as expeditiously as possible.

Regions and sections are encouraged to use generic drugs when acceptable to the physicians and available on state contract.

#### **REFERENCE DOCUMENT**

T.C.A. 63-10-405

#### **OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY**

Office of the Medical Director, Bureau of Health Services, (615)741-7305