



Bridge Clinic Witnessed Daily Dosing

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Printed copies are for reference only.
Please refer to the electronic copy of this policy for the latest version.

Purpose:

To describe the purpose of the Witnessed Daily Dosing within the Bridge Clinic and related protocols for treating patients.

Policy Applies: (check all that apply)

- All Staff
- Administrative Staff
- Clinical Staff
- Providers
- Board of Directors
- Only applies to this or these sites: Bridge Clinic

Policy:

- **What is Witnessed Daily Dosing?**
 - Witnessed Daily Dosing is when a patient picks up a daily dose of their medication and self-administers it while a staff member witnesses them doing so
- **Determining if a patient needs Witnessed Daily Dosing:**
 - There is a strong suspicion for diversion of their medication and they are actively using illicit substances
 - It is known that the patient has diverted their medication and they are actively using illicit substances
 - A patient is unable to keep their medication safe
 - A patient has ongoing illicit substance use without improvement despite attempts to engage the patient in group, meetings or counseling
- **What are the patient expectations?**
 - Patients will sign the Behavioral Plan for Witnessed Daily Dosing
 - The patient will work with the Bridge Clinic Coordinator to determine a time for their Witnessed Daily Dosing
 - The patient will pick up their dose from PCH Center pharmacy and bring it to the Bridge Clinic during the pre-determined dosing time
 - The patient will sit with the Bridge Clinic staff member for 5-10 minutes while their medication is absorbed
 - The patient will provide a mouth check after each witnessed dose
 - All other behavior expectations for Bridge Clinic will apply
- **Work flow for Witnessed Daily Dosing:**
 - Patient is determined to need Witnessed Daily Dosing by the team

- The responsible provider is expected to meet with the patient *at least* weekly for office visits with the patient. The provider will document a rationale for any deviance from this frequency
- The responsible provider and the clinical lead, Bridge Clinic Coordinator or LCSW will review this with the patient
 - If the responsible provider is unavailable, the clinical lead *and* the Bridge Clinic Coordinator or LCSW/LCPC/LADC will review this with the patient
- The patient expectations behavioral plan is reviewed with the patient and signed
- The responsible provider will work with the PCH Center pharmacy to determine how best to write the prescription for the patient to pick up one strip per day during the work week and 2 strips on the weekend
 - If there is a holiday during the work week the responsible provider will work with the PCH Center pharmacy to determine how best to write the prescription
- The patient will pick up their prescription at PCH Center pharmacy and bring this to the Bridge Clinic during a **pre-determined time** for witnessed dosing
 - If the patient does not present to the Bridge Clinic **during** the pre-determined time they will not be dosed and be in violation of their behavioral plan. The patient will not receive further prescriptions. The patient will be reviewed at the team huddle to determine next steps
- The Bridge Clinic staff that is witnessing the dosing will have the patient show the inside of their mouth with the strip or tablet in place. The patient will not be allowed to touch their face once the strip or tablet is in their mouth. After the 5-10 minutes the staff will check the patient's mouth again to witness either a dissolved strip or tablet.
 - The strip or tablet may still be present at the end of the 5-10 minute mark. This is still considered a successful witnessed dose.
- The patient will sit with an employee of the Bridge Clinic and be monitored for 5-10 minutes after taking their dose
- All other Bridge Clinic expectations apply during daily dosing
- **Is Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing an option?**
 - Yes – If a patient has been successful with in-office Witnessed Daily Dosing for **two** weeks they may opt for Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing
 - Successful indicates that the patient has attended all office visits with the responsible provider and attended all Witnessed Daily Dosing visits on time
 - Please see Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing policy for further details
- **How long does a patient participate in Witnessed Daily Dosing?**
 - A patient will need to participate in Witnessed Daily Dosing for a minimum of two weeks
 - If the patient has been successful, the responsible provider will bring the case to huddle and review with the team to advance the patient to twice weekly visits
 - Twice weekly visits will include *at least* one office visit and one separate Urine Drug Screen with a refill
- **Are there exceptions to the policy?**
 - If the responsible provider feels an exception to the policy should be made the provider must review the patient with the Director of Addiction Services and/or the Clinical Lead and Bridge Clinic Coordinator. The responsible provider will need to provide a rationale as to why they feel an exception is appropriate