Range Order Administration Guidelines

When specific instructions are not provided within the prescribed range order, the following guidelines will be used to guide dose selection.

- If patient has **NOT** received the medication during current hospitalization, start with lowest dose within the dose range.
- Reassess symptom control and presence of side effects specific to medication given.
- If symptom(s) are not controlled and patient is without serious side effects, give higher dose or additional dose(s) within the dose range, not to exceed maximum dose within the dosing interval.
- If patient has received the medication during current hospitalization, give subsequent doses at lowest effective dose; not to exceed the maximum dose within the dosing interval.
- Notify provider if symptom(s) are not controlled with maximum dosing, side effects limit dosing, or assessment indicates lowest dose in the range would put the patient at risk for adverse effects.
- Document patient response and side effects if present.

**Symptom Assessments**

- **Analgesics** – Assess pain rating and ability to meet pain / therapeutic activity goals. When opioids are given, assess sedation, nausea, and pruritis; include RR and quality if patient has signs of sedation or with nighttime reassessment. Opioid side effects may also include constipation and mental confusion.
- **Antiemetics** – relief of nausea, vomiting; side effects may include drowsiness, headache, constipation
- **Benzodiazepines** – indication varies e.g., anxiety, insomnia, muscle spasm; side effects may include excess sedation
- **Muscle relaxants** – relief of muscle spasm and pain; side effects may include confusion, drowsiness, sedation

Assess symptom relief and potential adverse effects based on individual patient needs. The list of drug classes where range orders exist are not all inclusive. Refer to medication references to review complete list of medication-specific side effects.