



The order is your source of truth: review the MAR order for EVERY patient before starting or titrating a drip



Why This Matters...

- Titration parameters are now visible within new IV titratable medication orders.
- Default parameters in PowerPlans align with standardized options.
- Providers may adjust defaults to meet patient-specific needs.
- Purpose: **safer titration, fewer medication errors, better documentation accuracy.**

What Nurses Need To Do...

- **Review the medication order and dose each time you start or titrate.**
- Use the MAR - not memory, badge buddies, or old parameter lists.
- Look for the normalized rate and the titration goal, increment, and frequency.
- Clarify unexpected or unclear orders with the Provider and Pharmacist if needed.

Important safety reminders

"Normalized Rate"

Cerner term for the initial starting rate of an infusion.

[Brackets]

On the order, brackets show the normalized rate, e.g., [5 mcg/kg/min].

Patient-specific orders

Providers can change rates and parameters on each order; for example - ICU and non-ICU parameters may differ.

Where to find titration details in the MAR

Callout: order details show titration instructions

Practice point: avoid memorizing parameter goals or initial rates. Review the active order, dose, and parameters before each administration or titration.

Questions? Reach out to your Leader, Educator, or Pharmacist.

PAIN MANAGEMENT

Match the Therapy to the Pain Score

Use ordered PRN options safely. Choose the lesser therapy when appropriate — never exceed the ordered pain-range match.

DO NOT ADMINISTER A HIGHER PAIN-RANGE MEDICATION FOR A LOWER PAIN SCORE

This changes the provider's ordered range and would be considered practicing medicine outside the scope of nursing practice.

When the score is low, use the matching lower-range order or a lesser ordered option; escalate if pain is uncontrolled or orders are unclear.

SAFE PRN SELECTION: 4 GUARDRAILS

- 1 Assess first:** Pain level, location, quality, timing, vitals, allergies, and last dose.
- 2 Match the order:** Select the PRN medication that matches the patient-reported pain-score range.
- 3 Lesser therapy is appropriate:** A less potent ordered option may be used based on patient choice or clinical rationale.
- 4 Document + reassess:** Record pain score, option selected, rationale/patient choice, and response.

BOTTOM LINE: Match the documented pain score to the ordered range. Lesser therapy is allowed when appropriate; higher-range medication is not.



LOW SCORE



HIGH-RANGE
MED

Stay within the ordered pain range.

When to call the provider

- Pain score/order range does not match
- Patient requests a stronger option than ordered range allows
- Pain remains uncontrolled after intervention
- Order is unclear or safety concern exists