March 26, 2018

Q: At a recent CMS Region 5 LTC Provider Association Meeting in Chicago, it was stated, that with regard to F758 - With regard to the 14 day limit on the PRN requirement for psychotropic drugs, if the attending physician or prescribing practitioner believes that it is appropriate for the PRN order to be extended beyond 14 days, he or she must document their rationale in the resident’s medical record and limit the new PRN order to a maximum of 14 more days. This new 14 day extension limit is a new CMS guideline. Is this accurate because there is no extension time limit in the actual rule or guidance?

A: Per federal requirements at §483.45(e)(4), “PRN orders for psychotropic drugs are limited to 14 days. Except as provided in §483.45(e)(5), if the attending physician or prescribing practitioner believes that it is appropriate for the PRN order to be extended beyond 14 days, he or she should document their rationale in the resident’s medical record and indicate the duration for the PRN order.” Federal requirements do not specify a time limit for the duration extension. However, the rationale must correspond to the indicated duration.