Medication Management and Use (MMU) Standard Expectation:
Required elements of a complete order or prescription

The reference for this clarification *is from the Joint Commission International Accreditation Standards for Hospitals, 7th Edition* which was released on 1 April 2020 with an effective date of 1 January 2021.

Standard MMU.4.2 requires that the hospital identifies safe prescribing, ordering, and transcribing practices and defines the elements of a complete order or prescription. Measurable Element 2 of Standard MMU.4.2 states that "All orders and prescriptions contain the name of the drug, the dose, the frequency and route of administration, the indication for prescribing the medication, and the maximum dose."

JCI recognizes that the requirement for including indication for use and maximum dose are not always necessary for all orders and prescriptions. As such, the intent of MMU.4.2 explains how additional elements of medication orders and prescriptions must be included only *when appropriate to the order*. The intent outlines these additional elements which include specific guidelines for the use of PRN (pro re nata, or "as needed") orders that include indications for use and detailed directions for overlapping orders, such as more than one medication for pain.

The expectation for PRN medications represents a special set of medication orders and therefore, adding the additional information about maximum dose is necessary to help staff safely administer these medications. For example, if the patient has multiple PRN medications for pain such as acetaminophen and Norco (or other narcotic/acetaminophen combinations), listing the maximum dose of acetaminophen is important.

JCI encourages customers to submit all follow-up questions through the Standards Interpretation webpage at http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/contact-us/submit-a-jci-standards-interpretation-question/