NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: PRESCRIBING BENZODIAZEPINES

NUMBER: NN-MM-41

ORIGINAL DATE: 1/19/12

REVIEW /REVISE DATE:

APPROVED: _____Allan Mandell_____, Interim Agency Director

I: PURPOSE

To provide for safe administration of Benzodiazepines.

II: POLICY

It is the policy of NNAMHS Medical Staff to only prescribe Benzodiazepines as they are medically necessary and with close monitoring to prevent adverse effects to our consumer population.

III. PROCEDURE

Prescribing clinicians will use appropriate medical judgment in conjunction with the following guidelines:

A. Emergency and/or short-term prescribing of Benzodiazepines will be at the prescribing clinician's discretion.

B. For long term use of benzodiazepines (>60 days)

1) Prescribing clinician will discuss with client the risks/benefits of use of Benzodiazepines including concerns of development of dependence.
2) Prescribing clinician will also discuss the guidelines that the medical staff has set in place and the consumer's responsibilities.
3) The prescribing clinician MAY ask the consumer for a written contract.

Consumer/Prescribing Clinician Agreement:

1) For this medication, there will be no “early” refills or replacement for lost medications. It is the consumer’s responsibility to safeguard their medications from loss or theft.
2) Consumer will follow the treatment plan in place by the clinician. This may include other medications, referrals, or labs – including possible UDS.
3) Consumer agrees that they will not receive other mood-altering medications outside of NNAMHS, and that only their assigned provider will provide Benzodiazepine prescriptions for them.
4) Consumer will abstain from the use of alcohol and other mind-altering substances.
5) Violation of these guidelines may result in the safe decrease and discontinuance of benzodiazepines.