

Order Writing

for Pediatric Patients

ADC VANDALISM (C)

Essentials:

- Clarity
- Date, Time, Signature, Appropriate Rank
- Re-evaluate

Order Writing

ADC VANDALISM (C)

- Admit Order
- Location
- Attending Physician
- Level of Care

“Admit to 5th floor pediatric unit for Dr. Lower--
inpatient status.”

(*consider other alternatives to level of care including 23 hour observation and ICU)

Order Writing



ADC VANDALISM (C)

- Diagnosis-**Put a "positive" Dx**
 - Chief complaint or problem(s)

"Diagnosis: "febrile neonate" (Not "rule out sepsis")
"abdominal pain" (Not "appendicitis")
"leukocytosis" (Not "rule out leukemia")

Order Writing

ADC VANDALISM (C) = Condition

- Fair Pt. Is ill, may have complications
- Poor Very ill pt., chronically or terminally ill, not very stable
- Guarded Very ill pt., clinical outcome not predictable (ex. IMC status)
- Critical Desperately ill, unstable patient (ex. ICU status)

“Condition: Fair”

“Good” is a red flag for Utilization Review: If the pt. status is good, why is he/she being admitted. “Stable” is not a very helpful descriptor, pair it with critical/guarded/fair.

Order Writing

ADC **V**ANDALISM (C)= Vital Signs (T, P, R, BP)

- Patient's condition dictates frequency
 - * Specify how often rather than putting "per routine"
(ICU=every 2 hrs.; IMC=every 4 hrs.; routine general=every 12 hrs.)
- Special variables need orders
 - orthostatics, neuro status, pulse oximetry
- Review daily

"Vital signs q 4 hours"

Order Writing

- ADC **V**ANDALISM (C)
 - Allergies
 - Include what they are allergic to and what reaction they get
 - If no known drug allergies, write “NKDA”

“Allergies: Penicillin - Hives and Wheezing”

Order Writing

ADC VANDALISM (C) = Nursing Instructions

- Intake and Output
- Daily weights
- Continuous pulse oximetry
- Turn patient every 2 hours
- Dip urine for blood every void
- Hemoccult stools X 3

- “1. Intake and Output
2. Daily weights
3. Continuous pulse oximetry while on narcotic medication”

Order Writing

ADC VANDALISM (C)=Diet/Nutrition

- Oral Nutrition - restricted or normal diet
 - Restricted-Diabetes (ex. "1800 kcal ADA diet")
 - Normal for infant ("Similac with Fe ad lib")
- NPO for pre-surgical patients, some abdominal problems, some respiratory problems
- If NPO, need order for alternative hydration and nutrition

"Clear liquids and advance slowly"

(writing "as tolerated" is NOT sufficiently descriptive: a 2 month old will "tolerate" juice just fine, but it's not in the child's nutritional best interest.



ADC VANDALISM (C) = Diet/Nutrition

- Short term intravenous therapy
 - Electrolyte solutions
- Long term intravenous therapy
 - parenteral or enteral nutrition



Order Writing

ADC VAND**A**LISM (C) = Activity-describe what you want the patient's limits to be.

- Examples-
Strict Bed rest
May go to playroom
Up in chair tid
Up ad lib
Up in arms ad lib (for an infant)



“Bed rest. Up to bathroom with assistance”

Order Writing ADC VANDALISM (C) = Laboratory Studies



- Clearly list each lab.
- Be sure to note when you want them completed (now, following morning, etc.).
- Notify nurse and clerk of stat labs.

1. CBC Stat
2. U/A after foley placement
3. BMP tomorrow morning"

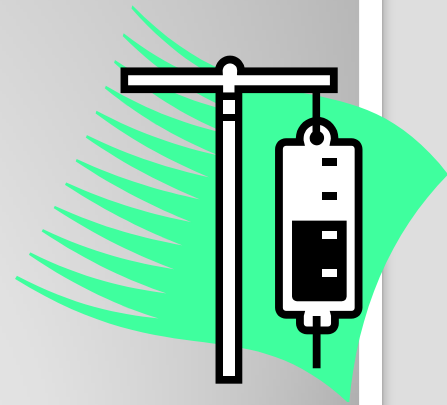
Order Writing

ADC VANDALISM (C)=Intravenous Fluids

- Be specific about composition, rate of administration and quantity
 - D₅W - 5 % Dextrose in Water
 - D₅½NS - 5% Dextrose in half normal saline
 - NS - Normal Saline
 - LR - Lactated Ringers solution
- Example: “Infuse 20ml/kg of NS”

“D5 ½ NS to KVO”

(KVO=keep vein opening)



Order Writing

ADC VANDALISM (C)=Special Studies and Consults

- Imaging studies - X-ray, sonograms, MRI's, CT's
- Cardiovascular Studies - EKGs, echocardiograms, dopplers
- Neurologic studies - EMGs, EEGs
- Provide explanations when appropriate
- **Communicate** directly with consulting physician when possible, **always** in stat situations

“1. Portable Chest X-ray
2. EKG, stat
3. Consult Dr. Ramzi Nicholas
regarding cardiac history and
concerns- I have notified him.”

Order Writing

ADC VANDALISM (C) = Medications



- List Medication
- Dosage
- Interval and route
- List duration of therapy if applicable
- Don't forget prn meds as appropriate (ex. tylenol, ibuprofen for fever (again write dose, interval, route and prn indication))

ADC VANDALISM (C) = Medications

- Review medications daily.
- Be specific when making changes. Cancel previous orders.
- If stat, communicate directly with nurse.

1.) Ampicillin (25 mg/kg/dose) = 100 mg IV Q 6 hours (This would be for a 4kg patient)

2.) Acetaminophen 80 mg (10mg/kg/dose) po Q 6hours prn fever > 38.50C (This would be for a 8kg patient)

Type and Crossmatch Orders

- Be specific about blood product desired
 - packed cells, whole blood, platelets, cryoprecipitate
- Clearly state how many units desired
- Clearly state what you want done
- Type and Cross order should precede transfuse order

“Type and Cross 4 units of PRBCs. Transfuse two units now, each over 4 hours; Hold two units in blood bank”

ADC VANDALISM (C) = Call Orders

- Use the format, "Call H.O. (house officer) if..." to record the instances that require a specific procedure.

Examples include-

- 1.) Call H.O. if O₂ sat < 94 or if requires more than 2 L O₂ to maintain sats
- 2.) Call H.O. if RR < 10 or > 60
- 3.) Call if urine output less than 80cc/8 hours"

Precautions

- Sometimes orders require you to put precautions down.

Examples include-

- 1.) Respiratory precautions
- 2.) Strict isolation
- 3.) Suicide precautions
- 4.) Seizure precautions

THANK YOU,

Jane Jones, MSIII

**Don't forget to date and
time all orders and notes!**

Prescription Writing

- Patient's full name and DOB/weight
- Date
- Rx
 - Drug Name...generic or trade name acceptable
 - Dosage
 - Quantity to be dispensed
 - Directions to patient
 - how many, how often, what route
 - how long? With meals?
 - Avoid "as directed"

Prescription Writing



- Number of refills
 - consider whether acute or chronic illness, abuse potential of drug, possibility of overdose
- May substitute?
 - Generics are cheaper
- Signature. DEA number for schedule II drugs.

Avoid the Following Abbreviations

- **IU**
- Mistaken as "IV" (intravenous) or 10 (ten).
- Write international unit(s)

- **MgSO₄**
- Misinterpreted as morphine sulfate, resulting in the wrong medication being administered.
- Write magnesium sulfate

- **MS / MSO₄ / MSO₄**
- Misinterpreted as magnesium sulfate, resulting in the wrong medication being administered.
- Write morphine

- **Q.D. / QD / q.d. / qd**
- Mistaken for Q.O.D./ qod, resulting in an inappropriate dosing schedule.
- Write daily

- **Q.O.D. / QOD / q.o.d. / qod**
- Mistaken for Q.D./qd, resulting in an inappropriate dosing schedule.
- Write every other day

- **T I W**
- Misinterpreted as "three times a day" or "twice a week."
- Specify days of the week

- **U / u**
- Mistaken as a zero or a four (4), resulting in overdose. Also mistaken for "cc" (cubic centimeters) when poorly written.
- Write unit(s)

- **µg**
- Mistaken for "mg" (milligrams) when written, resulting in an overdose.
- Write microgram(s) or mcg