Dispensing HYDROmorphone (DILAUDID®) Tablets for Self-Administration: Pharmaceutical Alternatives in Acute Care (PAAC)

Site Applicability

St. Paul's Hospital (SPH): Urban Health (UH) unit 8A ONLY

Practice Level

RNs/RPNs working on SPH 8A: Advanced Competency. Additional education required:

• SPH 8A UH unit-specific orientation and/or education from the Nurse Educator for Substance Use, Addiction Medicine Consult Team (AMCT) Liaison Nurse, or 8A UH unit Nurse Educator.

Requirements

- Patients must have access to a bedside safe for secure storage of the HYDROmorphone tablets for self-administration when on the unit.
- Patients who will be injecting the tablets must agree to use the tablets at the SPH Overdose
 Prevention Site (OPS) for supervised consumption and must be able to access the SPH OPS (i.e.,
 physically able to reach the OPS, not have medical conditions that restrict them from leaving the
 unit).
- Only AMCT providers can prescribe HYDROmorphone tablets for patient self-administration.
- The AMCT provider must review the Program Consent and Treatment Agreement with the patient and both must sign the form.
- Nurses must follow the BCCNM <u>Medication standard</u> and PHC's <u>Dispensing Medications</u> (Nurses) protocol on SHOP.
- As HYDROmorphone is an opioid, Health Canada regulation requires that the "<u>Health Canada Opioid Medicines Information for Patients and Families</u>" handout (see <u>Appendix E</u>) is provided, and an additional opioid warning label is applied to the container (see <u>Appendix C</u>; the label is available for order from stores).
- A witness is required at the time of dispensing PAAC HYDROmorphone tablets to patients for self-administration.

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Need to Know

- The COVID-19 pandemic compounded the harms and challenges of the toxic drug supply and overdose emergency declared in April 2016 and increased several risks for people who use drugs (PWUD). These risks include unintentional poisoning and overdose.
- The goal of the PAAC program is to reduce the risk of fatal overdose from the toxic drug supply by providing patients with a safe alternative if nurse-administered medications do not meet the patient's needs and the patient will continue to access the toxic drug supply while admitted to hospital.
- Prescription of HYDROmorphone tablets as a harm reduction approach to reduce individuals' reliance on the "illicit" toxic drug supply has been implemented in community settings (sometimes referred to as "safe supply").
- Despite the provision of nurse-administered opioid agonist therapies to manage withdrawal and cravings and short-acting opioids to treat pain, inpatients may need to continue to access the toxic drug supply to manage their withdrawal and cravings. When admitted to hospital, patients are reliant on nurses to administer opioids, outside of this program, which are sometimes ordered q1h PRN.
- The PAAC program involves RN/RPN dispensing HYDROmorphone 8 mg tablets to the patient once daily for the patient to self-administer at the SPH OPS. The number of tablets may vary up to a maximum of 14 tablets daily, and the medication must be stored in the safe at the patient's bedside.
- DILAUDID® HYDROmorphone brand is used in community and preferred by most PWUD because
 it is easier to crush and prepare than generic HYDROmorphone tablets. DILAUDID® brand
 HYDROmorphone will be used for this program. In the event of a backorder, pharmacy staff will
 alert nurses and providers that during the backorder period generic HYDROmorphone will be
 provided for PAAC.
- The dispensing order will be to take the tablets by mouth, but patients may choose to crush and inject the tablets with the understanding of the risks (e.g., heart and other infections, and other unknown risks).
- Patients may be co-prescribed opioid agonist therapies (e.g., slow-release oral morphine, methadone) and/or nurse-administered opioids in addition to HYDROmorphone tablets for selfadministration.
- An advantage of self-administration is that the patient can respond immediately to symptoms of withdrawal or cravings by managing their own supply and timing of administration.
- The custody of care of the medications, including opioids, ends at dispensing, when the patient becomes responsible for the medications and their secure storage per their agreement to participate in the program.
- The AMCT Liaison Nurse is available to provide support to nurses when caring for patients involved in this program. Nurses can also contact AMCT provider (through switchboard) between 0800 to 1700, or the most responsible physician (MRP) with any concerns after hours.

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Equipment and Supplies

- 8 mg HYDROmorphone (DILAUDID®) tablets,
- Child safe vial with dispensing (Appendix B) and opioid warning labels applied (see Appendix C),
- "<u>Health Canada Opioid Medicines Information for Patients and Families</u>" handout (see Appendix E),
- Safer injection (harm reduction) supplies (see section "4.6 Harm reduction", specifically 4.6.2 and 4.6.4., in the "Harm Reduction and Managing Substance Use Acute Care" nursing guideline), including Sterifilt filters and miniature pill crusher if patient will be injecting the tablets, and
- Take Home Naloxone kit.

Procedure

Prescriber Orders

A PowerPlan for nurse dispense of HYDROmorphone (DILAUDID® BRAND) tablets for patient self-administration will be entered into Cerner by the AMCT provider. The dispensing medication order will appear on the Medication Administration Record (MAR). The PowerPlan also contains orders for patient assessment, provision of sterile safer injection (harm reduction) supplies, and naloxone PRN.

Scheduled		
Ta 🏈 📴	80 mg	80 mg
HYDROmorphone (HYDROmorphone (DILAUDID BRAND) 8 mg tab (prototypee))	Not given	Not given
oo ing - 10 tab, 10, qually, arag forms tab, bisperise take frome medication, state 11-5an-2025 14-12 151	within 7 days.	within 7 days.
Nurse to dispense. Dispense quantity: 10 and first dose start: January 12. Self Medication Program. Keep		
HYDROmorphone		
Respiratory Rate		

Only AMCT providers are authorized to prescribe HYDROmorphone tablets for inpatients to self-administer at SPH. If this PowerPlan is ordered by a non-approved prescriber, pharmacy will reject the order. **Do not proceed with dispensing**. Contact the prescriber and/or pharmacy for clarification.

Initial Assessment

- Upon initial dispensing of the tablets, and at least once per shift, assess and <u>document</u> the
 patient's understanding of the medication therapy including indication, possible side effects,
 dosage/route/frequency, and safe storage (see "<u>Documentation</u>" section below for an example).
- Upon initial dispensing and weekly thereafter, collect a urine drug screen as ordered. Results are not needed prior to initiating/dispensing the medication.
- Obtain baseline respiratory rate (RR) and level of sedation (LOS) using the Pasero Opioid-induced Sedation Scale (POSS) [see <u>Appendix A</u>] prior to dispensing the tablets. The patient must be alert enough to receive the medication, put it in the safe and/or leave the unit to go to the SPH OPS if injecting the tablets.
 - If patient's POSS score is 3 or 4, do not dispense the medication and notify AMCT and the AMCT Liaison Nurse *OR* MRP if after hours.
 - Respiratory rate is the best indicator of respiratory status; do not be reassured by a normal oxygen saturation.

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Steps

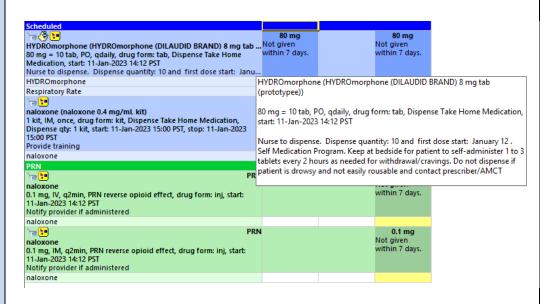
The order is for once daily dispense of HYDROmorphone tablets. The time of dispense may be adjusted or rescheduled up until 1900 (the SPH OPS closes at 2000 with the last visit starting at 1915). Patients can request the medication from the unit RN/RPN, then the RN/RPN will prepare and dispense the tablets as follows:

Prepare Medication

8A RN/RPN

Once the order is verified by pharmacy, the nurse will have access to 8 mg HYDROmorphone tablets in the Automated Dispensing Cabinet (ADC, aka Omnicell®). Send Medication Request to Pharmacy if supply needs to be topped up (or call if urgent).

- 1. Verify the order. **Review all the order comments** as all the dispensing instructions are not visible by just looking at the MAR itself. The number of 8 mg tablets ordered may vary up to a maximum of 14 tablets (maximum of 112 mg per day).
 - In Cerner, this requires hovering (the mouse) over the medication entry on the MAR or right clicking on the medication and selecting "Order Info..." to open the order details. The order comments can be found under the "Comments" tab.



- 2. Confirm that the Program Consent and Treatment Agreement form is signed by the provider and the patient and present in the paper chartlet.
 - This form can be printed from FormFast and is scanned into the electronic chart following discharge.

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3. Remove prescribed quantity of tablets with a second nurse as a witness, and place tablets in the child safe vial. The dose, in number of tablets, requires a witness at the time of dispensing (see "Documentation" section below for an example).



- 4. Ensure the vial is labelled according to the requirements listed in the "Dispensing Medication (Nurses)" protocol on SHOP. There is a partially pre-filled dispensing label template for HYDROmorphone (DILAUDID®) 8 mg tablets available (see Appendix B). Be sure to fill in all the blank items, including dispensing nurse initials. Inform 8A UH unit Nurse Educator or Substance Use Nurse Educator if more labels need to be printed.
- 5. Apply an additional opioid warning sticker per Health Canada regulation requirements (see Appendix C).

Dispense **Medication to Patient**

- 6. Discuss safe storage and instruct patient to store the HYDROmorphone tablets in their bedside safe.
- 7. Provide <u>patient education</u> on use of medication, including informing the patient to self-administer tablets at the SPH OPS for safety to reduce risk of unwitnessed or fatal overdose and/or other adverse events.
 - 8A UH unit Nurse Educator has postcards with information about SPH OPS that can be provided to patients (see Appendix D).
- 8. Per Health Canada regulation requirements, provide patient with the "Health Canada Opioid Medicines – Information for Patients and Families" handout the first time the medication is dispensed (see Appendix E). On subsequent days, offer to provide the handout if the patient wants another copy.
- 9. With every dispense, offer and provide a take home naloxone kit and sterile safer injection (harm reduction) supplies, including Sterifilt filters and a miniature pill crusher if needed.
 - Note: THN kits and harm reduction supplies are also available at the SPH OPS.

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Confirm Patient Selfadministration

- 10. Assess effectiveness of the medication and ask the patient how many tablets they self-administered and document what they report in Cerner (see "<u>Documentation</u>" section below).
 - Note: the patient does not need to provide the empty vial and nurses are not required to count or confirm what is left over.
- 11. If the patient returns any tablets, waste these unused tablets at patient's request with a witness.

Ongoing Assessment

- If patient has an overdose requiring clinical intervention(s) at the SPH OPS (e.g., increased LOS
 requiring frequent stimulation to arouse, oxygen, naloxone administration, or code blue), nurses
 at the OPS will notify the most responsible nurse (MRN) on 8A and arrange for transport of the
 patient back to 8A.
 - SPH OPS LPN will document the details in a narrative note in these cases, but it is the responsibility of the MRN to notify AMCT (0800-1700) or MRP (after 1700) of what happened.
 - There is a Medication Safety Practice Pointer on PHC Connect on the Medication Resources Page regarding "Ongoing Care & Monitoring on the Unit Post-Overdose at OPS" that outlines ongoing assessment and treatment.

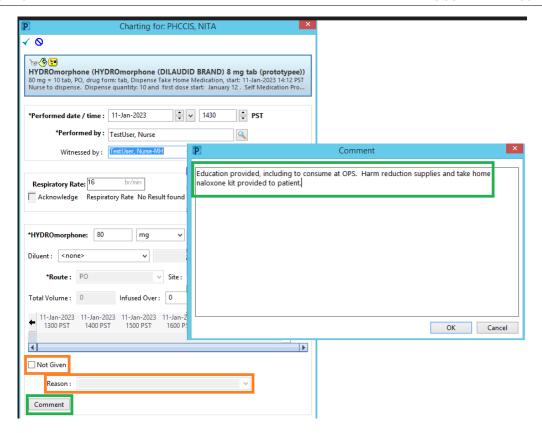
Documentation

• Document medication dispensed and patient education provided on the MAR, including the witness required at the time of dispensing the medication that is documented in the "Witnessed by:" section (see image below).

To document from the MAR: Select the medication -> click box next to "Not Given" -> Reason: Dispensed. Click "Comment" and document education given to patient. This will show up as:

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Document patient assessment and the total number of tablets that the patient reports having taken, and any other details as appropriate in a narrative note in Cerner:
 Go to Documentation section -> +Add -> under "*Type:", select "Nursing Narrative Note" and title the note "PAAC Hydromorphone Assessment" (see Appendix F for example with screen shots).

Patient and Family Education

- When dispensing medication, nurses must inform the patient of the proper use of the medication including purpose, dosage regime, expected benefits and potential side effects, storage requirements (bedside safe), and special instructions (location of use SPH OPS).
- As needed, review information on the Consent and Treatment Agreement form (see <u>Appendix G</u>).
- Patient education resources regarding safer tablet injection, including how to use the Sterifilt filters, are available on the <u>BCCDC Toward the Heart website</u>.
- Consult AMCT Liaison Nurse or AMCT Clinical Pharmacist as needed to provide additional education.

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Related Documents

Related Policies

- <u>BCD-11-11-41006</u> Medication Administration Policy
- PHC Patient Self-Administered Medications Policy
- B-00-11-10125 Philosophy of Care for Patients and Residents Who Use Substances

Related Guidelines/Procedures/DSTs

- B-00-07-10061 Automated Dispensing Cabinets (ADC): Omnicell®
- B-00-12-10168 Bedside Safes
- B-00-13-10167 Dispensing Medications (Nurses)
- B-00-13-10175 Dispensing Take Home Naloxone Kits to Clients at Risk of Opioid Overdose (Adults and Youth)
- B-00-07-10096 Harm Reduction and Managing Substance Use Acute Care
- <u>B-00-07-10096</u> PICC/PIV and Substance Use: Patients Who May be Using Their IV Line to Inject Substances
- British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives. Practice Standard: <u>Medications</u>

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Definitions

"Safer supply" refers to providing prescribed medications as a safer alternative to the toxic drug supply to people who are at high risk of overdose. Safer supply services can help prevent overdoses, save lives, and connect people who use drugs to other health and social services.

Appendices

Appendix A - Pasero Opioid-induced Sedation Scale (POSS)

Appendix B - Dispensing Label for HYDROmorphone (DILAUDID®) 8 mg Tablets

Appendix C - Opioid Warning Label Sticker

Appendix D - SPH OPS Information for Patients

Appendix E - Health Canada Opioid Medicines - Information for Patients and Families handout

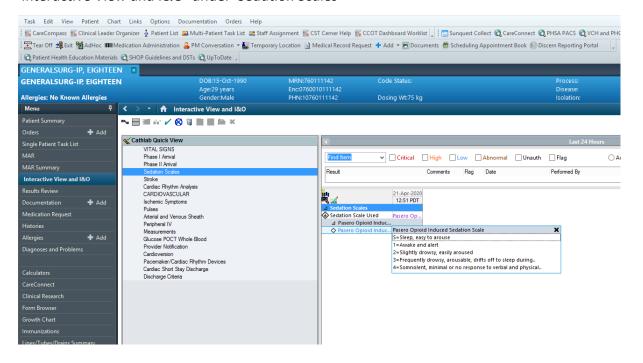
Appendix F - Nursing Narrative Note Example

<u>Appendix G</u> - Pharmaceutical Alternatives – DILAUDID® Tablet Self-Administered Medication Program Consent and Treatment Agreement

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Appendix A: Pasero Opioid-induced Sedation Scale (POSS) located in Cerner PowerChart in 'Interactive View and I&O' under 'Sedation Scales'



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Appendix B: Dispensing Label for HYDROmorphone (DILAUDID®) 8 mg tablets - available as a PDF printable template

Contact 8A UH unit Nurse Educator, AMCT Liaison Nurse, or Nurse Educator for Substance Use for support accessing the template if needed.

Providence Health Care St Paul's Hospital - 1081 Burrard St. Vancouver, BC

8A Urban Health: 604-806-8458 **DATE:**

Patient: DOB:

Medication & Strength: HYDROmorphone (DILAUDID BRAND) 8 mg TAB

Directions: Take 1 to 3 tablets by mouth every 2 hours as needed for withdrawal or

cravings. To be used at SPH Overdose Prevention Site.

Quantity: Prescriber:

Dispensed by:

PH903 (February 1, 2023)

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Appendix C: Opioid Warning Label Sticker



Available through Stores - HA Item Number: VCH-PHC 00125241 VMID: P-32

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Appendix D: SPH OPS Information for Patients



OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITE (OPS)

HOURS: 10AM-8PM (CLOSED FOR LUNCH 2-3PM) - last visit for injection 7:15PM

WHERE: 4th floor Providence building by the cafeteria (just past the public washrooms)

* This site is for patients only – you can access services if you are admitted to a unit, in the Emergency Department, TCC, or receiving medical care as an outpatient *



SERVICES:

- Supervised consumption & overdose response
- Clean space for drug preparation
- Drug testing
- Safer injection supplies
- Safer smoking supplies sorry no inhalation room onsite
- Take Home Naloxone kits
- Nurses to give support & answer questions

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Appendix E: Health Canada Opioid Medicines - Information for Patients and Families handout

Opioid Medicines

*

Health

Santé Canada

Information for Patients and Families

You have been prescribed an opioid medicine for the treatment of pain or for another condition.

Talk to the health professional who prescribed your opioid, or your pharmacist if you:

- · Have questions about your opioid medicine.
- · Do not understand the instructions for using the opioid medicine given to you.
- Develop side effects or your condition worsens.

SERIOUS WARNINGS

- Opioid overdose can lead to death. Overdose is more likely to happen at higher doses, or if you take opioids with alcohol or with other sedating drugs (such as sleeping pills, anxiety medication, anti-depressants, muscle relaxants).
- Addiction may occur, even when opioids are used as prescribed.
- Physical dependence can occur when opioids are used every day. This can make it hard to stop using them.
- Life-threatening breathing problems or reduced blood pressure may occur with opioid use. Talk to the health professional who prescribed your opioid about whether any health conditions you have may increase your risk.
- Your pain may worsen with long-term opioid use or at higher doses.
 You may not feel pain relief with further increases in your dose. Talk to the health professional who prescribed your opioid if this happens to you, as a lower dose or a change in treatment may be required.
- Withdrawal symptoms, such as widespread pain, irritability, agitation, flu-like symptoms and trouble sleeping, are common when you stop or reduce the use of opioids.
- Babies born to mothers taking opioids may develop life-threatening withdrawal symptoms.
- Use only as directed. Crushing, cutting, breaking, chewing or dissolving opioids before consuming them can cause serious harm, including death.

SIGNS OF OVERDOSE

- Hallucinations
- Confusion
- · Difficulty walking
- Extreme drowsiness/dizziness
- Slow or unusual breathing
- · Unable to be woken up
- · Cold and clammy skin

Call 911 or your local emergency response provider right away if you suspect an opioid overdose or think you may have taken too much. *

* Naloxone has been approved by Health Canada to temporarily reverse known or suspected opioid overdoses.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

- · Reduced physical and/or mental abilities, depression
- Drowsiness, dizziness, risks of falls/fractures
- Heart palpitations, irregular heartbeat
- · Problems sleeping, may cause or worsen sleep apnea
- · Vision problems, headache
- Low sex drive, erectile dysfunction, infertility
- · Severe constipation, nausea, vomiting

YOUR OPIOIDS MAY BE FATAL TO OTHERS

- · Never give your opioid medicine to anyone.
- · Store opioids (including used patches) in a secure place to prevent theft, problematic use or accidental exposure.
- · Keep opioids out of sight and reach of children and pets. Taking even one dose by accident can be fatal.
- · Never throw opioids (including used patches) into household trash where children and pets may find them.
- · Return expired, unused or used opioids (including patches) to a pharmacy for proper disposal.

This handout is a summary and will not tell you everything about opioid medicines.

More information about the opioid you have been prescribed (or naloxone) can be found online in the Product

Monograph: https://health-products.canada.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp

Date: 2019/03/15

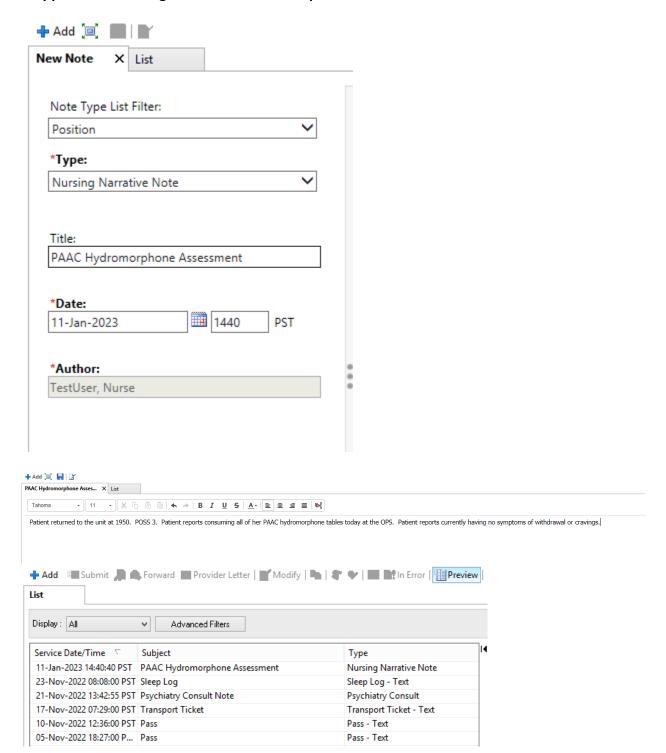
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Appendix F: Nursing Narrative Note Example



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Appendix G: Pharmaceutical Alternatives – DILAUDID® Tablet Self-Administered Medication Program Consent and Treatment Agreement



Physician signature

FORM ID – PHC MR122 VERSION (9 Feb 2023)

PHARMACEUTICAL ALTERNATIVES-DILAUDID TABLET SELF-ADMINISTERED MEDICATION PROGRAM CONSENT AND TREATMENT AGREEMENT

Oate:			
Program (SAM) for patients fillicit") drug supply. SAM h uestions and I understand	receiving HYDROmorphone (DILAUDID	ipating in the Self-Administered Medication) tablets as a safer alternative to non-prescri y agree to participate. I have had the chance	ibed to ask
understand and agree th	at:	X	
	"Tablets") are meant to be taken by mo infections, and other unknown risks.	utin, and injecting tablets may lead to an incre	eased
My Tablets will only be	given to me one time per day.		
 I will keep the Tablets refills if the Tablets are 		being lost or stolen. The doctors will not sup	oply
These Tablets are for its area.	my use only. I will not give my Tablets to	anyone else.	
I will follow the directio	ns on the medication 'airel.		
		oms of withdrawal or cravings, and if I used of tablets used. I can return any unused tabl	
My treatment may cha	nge if the modication is not working, not	being used, or causes side effects.	
I understand that St. P (or misuse) of the Tab		be responsible for any harms resulting from	my use
	ug testing if asked. If my urine drug tes AUDID) it may result in changes to how		
	non-prescribed drugs, including alcohol use it could cause serious side effects/h	and benzodiazepines (e.g. Ativan), while I a arms, overdose, or death.	m
further understand that i	I do not follow these directions, I ma	y not be allowed to participate in SAM an	ymore.
atient signature	Printed name	Date/time	
		ient and have answered any questions raise	

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Printed name

Date/time

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