

April 20, 2020

Medication Administration Q&A

Q: If a HCW is also a family member, can they provide medication administration?

A: If it is a paid task, no, they cannot provide medication administration without nursing oversight. They can provide the task as a natural support if they choose.

Q: When reassessing, we shouldn't be marking "B" if the consumer needs organizing assistance?

A: Selecting "B. Minimal Assistance" is appropriate if the consumer only needs help organizing medications. Medication management has three areas that are assessed. If they only need assistance with one area, then B would be correct.

1. Ability to order prescribed medications
2. Ability to organize prescribed medications
3. Ability to administer prescribed medications

Q: Ordering meds would be under shopping?

A: The assessment would need to determine if the consumer has the ability to order prescribed medications versus convenience. If they lack the ability to order/reorder prescribed medications, then this would fall under medication management. The lack of ability could be due to poor cognition or physically unable to perform the task.

Q: What do we do about HCW's who are setting up medication now? Do we have to ask for RN oversight?

A: First, check to see if your AAA offers RN services as part of the OPI authorized services. Have a conversation with the consumer about

medication set-up and explain that HCW's are not authorized to handle medications without nursing oversight.

Q: What about consumers who have a physical disability (such as arthritis) and cannot set-up medications but they are cognitively able to direct their HCW?

A: The consumer may oversee the set-up of their medications. They must demonstrate that they are able to direct the HCW through the process and cannot leave the HCW unattended while medication is being set-up. This involves the consumer telling the HCW exactly which medication goes where and how often it is taken. Assessment comments should clearly identify this process to support the task list.

Q: What about inhalers that don't fit in a medication box?

A: HCW's may bring inhalers to the consumer. They should not physically assist the consumer to put the inhaler into their mouth or push the canister to administer the puff.

Q: If the in-home care agency does have the Medicaid level licensure then can we list giving medications on the task list?

A: Yes, if your local contract has included this. Always check your local contract since the scope of work can vary.