

HH 415: Medication Administration and Medication Assistance

WAC: 246-335-420 Delivery of Services

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Policy Statement:

Agency personnel, contractors, and volunteers will understand their roles and responsibilities related to medication self-administration with assistance. Hanford Home Health staff will adhere to Washington State regulations for administration and assisting with medications. Medication administration and/or assistance will be identified in the home health Plan of Care

Procedure:

- 1) Medication administration means assistance with the application, instillation, or insertion of medications according to a plan of Health, for patients of an in-home services agency licensed to provide home health services and are under the direction of appropriate agency health personnel. The assistance is provided in accordance with the Nurse Practice Act as defined in chapters 18.79 RCW and 246-840 WAC and the nursing assistant scope of practice as defined in chapters 18.88A RCW and 246-841 WAC.
- 2) The Home Health Aide may assist with patient owned medications that are self-administered following these guidelines:
 - a) Assistance with medication is clearly identified in the home health Plan of Care
 - b) The Home Health Aide can remind the patient when it is time to take a prescribed medication
 - c) The Home Health Aide hands the containers of patient owned medication to the client, and reads the medication label to the client
 - d) The Home Health Aide may open or assist the patient in opening a medication container
 - e) A pharmacist or other practitioner, practicing within their scope of practice, must determine if it is safe to alter or prepare medications. The contact with the pharmacist or practitioner is the responsibility of the Administrator or designee. Therefore, a Home Health Aide must receive approval of the Director of Clinical Services or designee to alter or prepare medications, and the approval to do so must appear on the home care Plan of Care.
 - f) The Home Health Aide may alter or prepare medications for self-administration (e.g., crushing or cutting tablets, opening capsules, mixing tablets, capsules or powdered medications with food or liquids) in accordance with WAC 246-888-070 and only with documentation in the home health Plan of Care to do so.
 - g) The Home Health Aide will be certain that medications are stored safely, out of the reach of children, and refrigerated when indicated.
- 3) The Home Health Aide may not:
 - a) Determine the correct dosage of medication to be taken by the client

- b) Remove oral medications from pharmacy labeled bottles/containers
 - c) Draw-up or administer medications by injection
 - d) Give advice or opinions about medications and their use
- 4) The Home Health Aide will immediately call the Director of Clinical Services or designee if there are any questions or concerns about the patient's medications.
- 5) Hanford Home Health may follow the Board of Pharmacy rules pertaining to medication assistance in community-based settings Chapter 246-888.