Chapter 246-888 WAC

MEDICATION ASSISTANCE

WAC 246-888-010 Purpose.

WAC 246-888-020 What is self-administration with assistance and how is it different from independent self-administration or medication administration?

WAC 246-888-030 How is self-administration with assistance initiated in a community-based care setting or an in-home setting?

WAC 246-888-040 When is an enabler?

WAC 246-888-050 How can medications be altered to assist with self-administration?

WAC 246-888-060 Can all medications be altered to facilitate self-administration?

WAC 246-888-070 What other type of assistance can a nonpractitioner provide?

WAC 246-888-080 Is oxygen covered under this rule?

WAC 246-888-090 If a individual/resident is able to administer his or her own oral medication through a gastrostomy or "g-tube," can a nonpractitioner provide assistance as outlined in these rules?

WAC 246-888-100 Are there any other requirements I need to be aware of?

246-888-100 Are there any other requirements I need to be aware of?

246-888-110 Are there any other requirements I need to be aware of?
Independent self-administration occurs when an individual/resident is independently able to directly apply a legend drug or controlled substance by ingestion, inhalation, injection or other means. In licensed boarding homes, self-administration may include situations in which an individual cannot physically self-administer medications but can accurately direct others per WAC 388-78A-300. These regulations do not limit the rights of people with functional disabilities to self direct care according to chapter 74.39 RCW.

If an individual/resident is not able to physically ingest or apply a medication independently or with assistance, then the medication must be administered to the individual/resident by a person legally authorized to do so (e.g., physician, nurse, pharmacist). All laws and regulations applicable to medication administration apply. If an individual/resident cannot safely self-administer medication or self-administer with assistance and/or cannot indicate an awareness that he or she is taking a medication, then the medication must be administered to the individual/resident by a person legally authorized to do so.

WAC 246-888-030 How is self-administration with assistance initiated in a community-based care setting or an in-home setting? An individual/resident who resides in a community-based care setting or an in-home setting or his or her representative may request self-administration with assistance. A nonpractitioner may help in the preparation of legend drugs and controlled substances for self-administration where a practitioner has determined and communicated orally or by written direction that such medication preparation assistance is necessary and appropriate.

No additional separate assessment or documentation of the needs of the individual/resident are required in order to initiate self-administration with assistance. It is recommended that providers document their decision making process in the health record of the individual or resident health record.

WAC 246-888-045 What is an enabler? Enablers are physical devices used to facilitate an individual's/resident's self-administration of a medication. Physical devices include, but are not limited to, a medicine cup, glass, cup, spoon, bowl, prefilled syringes, syringes used to measure liquids, specially adapted table surface, straw, piece of cloth or fabric.

An individual's hand may also be an enabler. The practice of "hand-over-hand" administration is not allowed. Medication administration with assistance includes steadying or guiding an individual's hand while he or she applies or instills medications such as ointments, eye, ear and nasal preparations.

WAC 246-888-050 How can medications be altered to assist with self-administration? Alteration of a medication for self-administration with assistance includes, but is not limited to, crushing tablets, cutting tablets in half, opening capsules, mixing powdered medications with foods or liquids, or mixing tablets or capsules with foods or liquids. Individuals/residents must be aware that the medication is being altered or added to their food.

WAC 246-888-060 Can all medications be altered to facilitate self-administration? A pharmacist or other practitioner practicing within their scope of practice must determine that it is safe to alter a legend drug or controlled substance. If the medication is altered, and a practitioner has determined that such medication alteration is necessary and appropriate, the determination shall be communicated orally or by written direction. Documentation of the appropriateness of the alteration must be on the prescription container, or in the individual's/resident's record.

WAC 246-888-070 What other type of assistance can a nonpractitioner provide? A nonpractitioner can transfer a medication from one container to another for the purpose of an individual dose. Examples include: Pouring a liquid medication from the medication container to a calibrated spoon or medication cup.

WAC 246-888-080 Is oxygen covered under this rule? Under state law, oxygen is not a medication and is not covered under this rule. While oxygen is not considered a medication under state law, oxygen does require an order/prescription from a practitioner.

WAC 246-888-090 If a individual/resident is able to administer his or her own oral medication through a gastrostomy or "g-tube," can a nonpractitioner provide assistance as outlined in these rules? If the prescription is written as an oral medication via "g-tube," and if a practitioner has determined that the medication can be altered, if necessary, for use via "g-tube," the rules as outlined for self-administration with assistance would also apply.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 69.41 RCW, RCW 18.64.005. WSR 04-18-095, recodified as § 246-888-090, filed 9/1/04, effective 10/2/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and 69.41.085. WSR 00-01-123, § 246-888-090, filed 12/17/99, effective 1/17/00.]

[Ch. 246-888 WAC p. 2]
WAC 246-888-100  Are there any other requirements I need to be aware of? You should be familiar with the rules specifically regulating your residential setting. The department of social and health services has adopted rules relating to medication services in boarding homes and adult family homes.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 69.41 RCW, RCW 18.64.005. WSR 04-18-095, recodified as § 246-888-100, filed 9/1/04, effective 10/2/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and 69.41.085. WSR 00-01-123, § 246-888-110, filed 12/17/99, effective 1/17/00.]