

**481—65.17(135C) Medication management.** Medications shall be prescribed on an individual basis by a person who is authorized by Iowa law to prescribe. (I, II)

1. Medication orders shall be correctly implemented by qualified personnel. (II)
2. Qualified staff shall ensure that residents are able to take their own medication. (I, II)
3. Each physician order allowing a resident to self-administer medications shall specify whether this self-medication shall be without supervision or under the supervision of qualified staff as defined in 65.17(2). (I, II)

**65.17(1)** A properly trained person shall be charged with the responsibility of administering nonparenteral medications.

*a.* The individual shall have knowledge of the purpose of the drugs, their dangers, and contraindications.

*b.* This person shall be a licensed nurse or physician or shall have successfully completed a department-approved medication aide course or passed a department-approved medication aide challenge examination administered by an area community college.

*c.* Prior to taking a department-approved medication aide course, the individual shall:

(1) Successfully complete an approved nurse aide course, nurse aide training and testing program or nurse aide competency examination.

(2) Be employed in the same facility for at least six consecutive months prior to the start of the medication aide course. This requirement is not subject to waiver.

(3) Have a letter of recommendation for admission to the medication aide course from the employing facility.

*d.* A person who is a nursing student or a graduate nurse may take the challenge examination in place of taking a medication aide course. This individual shall do all of the following before taking the medication aide challenge examination:

(1) Complete a clinical or nursing theory course within six months before taking the challenge examination;

(2) Successfully complete a nursing program pharmacology course within one year before taking the challenge examination;

(3) Provide to the community college a written statement from the nursing program's pharmacology or clinical instructor indicating the individual is competent in medication administration;

(4) Successfully complete a department-approved nurse aide competency evaluation.

*e.* A person who has written documentation of certification as a medication aide in another state may become a medication aide in Iowa by successfully completing a department-approved nurse aide competency examination and a medication aide challenge examination.

The requirements of paragraph "c" of this subrule do not apply to this individual.

*f.* Unit dose medication shall remain in the identifiable unit dose package until given to the resident. (II)

*g.* Medications that are not contained in unit dose packaging shall be set up, identified by resident name and medication name, and administered by the same person. The medications shall be administered within one hour of preparation. (II)

*h.* The person administering medications must observe and check to make sure the resident swallows oral medications and must record the date, time, amount and name of each medication given. (II)

*i.* Injectable medications shall be administered as permitted by Iowa law by a qualified nurse, physician, pharmacist, or physician associate (PA). In the case of a resident who has been certified by the resident's physician or physician associate (PA) as capable of taking the resident's own insulin, the resident may prepare and inject the resident's own insulin. (II)

*j.* Current and accurate records must be kept on the receipt and disposition of all Schedule II drugs. (II, III)

**65.17(2)** For each resident who is taking medication with or without supervision, there shall be documentation on the individual's record to include:

*a.* Name of resident; (II, III)

*b.* Name of drug, dose, and schedule; (II, III)

- c. Method of administration; (II, III)
- d. Identified drug allergies and observed adverse reactions; (I, II)
- e. Special precautions for that resident; (I, II) and
- f. Documentation of resident's continuing ability to administer own medication. (I, II)

**65.17(3)** Medication counseling shall be provided for all residents in accordance with the IPP on an ongoing basis and as part of discharge planning unless contraindicated in writing by the physician with reasons and pursuant to 65.12(2) "c." (II, III)

Each resident and when appropriate, a family member or other identified caregiver, shall be given verbal and written information about all medications the resident is currently using, including over-the-counter medications. A suggested reference is "USPDI, Advice for the Patient." (II, III)

The information shall include:

- a. Name, reason for, and amount of medication to be taken; (II)
- b. Time medication is to be taken and reason that the schedule was established; (II)
- c. Possible benefits, risks and side effects of each medication, including over-the-counter medications; (II)
- d. A list of resources in the community qualified to answer questions about medications; (II, III) and
- e. A list of available resources or agencies which may assist the resident to obtain medication after discharge. (III)

**65.17(4)** Residents who have been certified in writing by the physician as capable of taking their own medications may retain these medications in a secure centralized location. Individual locked storage shall be utilized. (II, III)

a. Drug storage for residents who are unable to take their own medications and require supervision shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Adequate size cabinet with lock which can be used for storage of drugs, solutions, and prescriptions. A locked drug cart may be used. (II, III)
- (2) A bathroom shall not be used for drug storage. (II, III)
- (3) The drug storage cabinet shall be kept locked when not in use. (II, III)
- (4) The drug storage cabinet key shall be in the possession of the employee charged with the responsibility of administering medication. (II, III)
- (5) Medications requiring refrigeration which are stored in a common refrigerator shall be kept in a locked box properly labeled, and separated from food and other items. (II, III)
- (6) Drugs for external use shall be stored separately from drugs for internal use. External medications are those to be applied to the outside of the body and include, but are not limited to, salves, ointments, gels, paste, soaps, baths, and lotions. Internal medications are those to be applied inside the body or ingested and include, but are not limited to, oral and injectable medications, eye drops and ointments, ear drops and ointments, and suppositories. Also, eye drops and ear drops shall be separated from each other as well as from other internal and external medications. (II, III)
- (7) All potent, poisonous, or caustic materials shall be stored in a separate room from the medications. (II, III)
- (8) Inspection of the condition of stored drugs shall be made by the administrator and a licensed pharmacist not less than once every three months. The inspection shall be verified by a report signed by the administrator and the pharmacist and filed with the administrator. The report shall include, but need not be limited to, certifying absence of the following: expired drugs, deteriorated drugs, improper labeling, drugs for which there is no current order, and drugs improperly stored. (III)
- (9) Double-locked storage of Schedule II drugs shall not be required under single unit package drug distribution systems in which the quantity stored does not exceed a seven-day supply and a missing dose can be readily detected but must be kept in a locked medication cabinet. Quantities in excess of a seven-day supply must be double-locked. (II)

b. Bulk supplies of prescription drugs shall not be kept. (III)

**65.17(5)** All labels on medications must be legible. If labels are not legible, the medication shall be sent back to the dispenser as defined in Iowa Code section 147.107 for relabeling. (II, III)

- a. The medication for each resident shall be kept or stored in the original dispensed containers. (II, III)
- b. The facility shall adopt policies and procedures to destroy unused prescription drugs for residents who die. The policies and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - (1) Drugs shall be destroyed by the person in charge in the presence of the administrator or the administrator's designee or, if a unit dose system is used, the drugs shall be returned to the supplying pharmacist; (III)
  - (2) Notation of the destruction shall be made in the resident's chart, with signatures of the persons involved in the destruction; (III)
  - (3) The manner in which the drugs are disposed of shall be identified (i.e., incinerator, sewer, landfill). (II, III)
- c. Reserved.
- d. The facility shall also adopt policies and procedures for the disposal of controlled substances as defined by the Iowa board of pharmacy dispensed to residents whose administration has been discontinued by the prescriber. These policies and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - (1) Procedures for obtaining a release from the resident; (II, III)
  - (2) The manner in which the drugs were destroyed and by whom, including witnesses to the destruction; (II, III)
  - (3) Mechanisms for recording the destruction; (II, III)
  - (4) Procedures to be used when the resident or the conservator or guardian refuses to grant permission for destruction. (II, III)
- e. The facility shall adopt policies and procedures for the disposal of unused, discontinued medication. The procedures shall include, but not be limited to:
  - (1) A specified time after which medication must be destroyed, sent back to the dispenser or placed in long-term storage; (II, III)
  - (2) Procedures for obtaining permission of the resident, or the conservator or guardian; (II, III)
  - (3) Procedures to be used when the resident, conservator or guardian refuses to grant permission for disposal; (II, III)
  - (4) Unused, discontinued medication shall be locked and shall be separate from current medication. (II, III)
- f. Reserved.
- g. Residents shall not keep any prescription or over-the-counter medication in their possession unless the resident has been determined to be capable of self-administration of medications. (I, II, III)
- h. No prescription drugs shall be administered to a resident without a written order signed by a person qualified to prescribe the medication and renewed quarterly. (II)
- i. Prescription drugs shall be reordered only with the permission of the attending prescriber. (II, III)
- j. No medications prescribed for one resident may be administered to or allowed in the possession of another resident. (II)

**65.17(6)** Each facility shall establish policies and procedures to govern the administration of prescribed medications to residents on leave from the facility. (III)

a. Medication may be issued to residents who will be on leave from a facility for less than 24 hours. Non-child-resistant containers may be used. Each container may hold only one medication. A label on each container shall indicate the date, the resident's name, the facility, the medication, its strength, dose, and time of administration. (II, III)

b. Medication for residents on leave from a facility longer than 24 hours shall be obtained in accordance with requirements established by the Iowa board of pharmacy examiners. (II, III)

c. Medication distributed as described in this subrule may be issued only by facility personnel responsible for administering medication. (II, III)

**65.17(7)** Each ICF/PMI that administers controlled substances shall annually obtain a registration from the Iowa board of pharmacy examiners pursuant to Iowa Code section 204.302(1). (III)

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 135C.14.

[ARC 1050C, IAB 10/2/13, effective 11/6/13; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/10/26]