

Packaging & Labeling

General Discussion:

Medication errors have often been linked to improper labeling and packaging. These errors can be controlled by ensuring that medications received from the pharmacy are accurately labeled and that proper packaging is maintained. Medication administration is based on specific information provided on the medication label. Unfortunately, medications have been mislabeled by the pharmacy, resulting in medication errors. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the provider to verify that all medications received are accurately labeled and correspond exactly to the physician's order.

For information related to mail order medications, please go to: [Mail Order Pharmacy and Assisted Living](#)

Relevant regulations:

ADC:

Standard I.F.(3)(c) Over-the-counter and prescription medications shall remain in the original labeled containers and be stored in a locked, safe place.

FAMILY ADC:

Standard I.D.(3)(c) Over-the-counter and prescription medications shall remain in the original labeled containers and be stored in a locked, safe place.

AFH:

DHS 88.07(3)(a) Every prescription medication shall be securely stored, shall remain in its original container as received from the pharmacy and be stored as specified by the pharmacist.

RCAC:

DHS 89.13(22) "Medication management" means oversight by a nurse, pharmacist or other health care professional to minimize risks associated with use of medications. Medication management includes proper storage of medications; preparation of a medication organization or reminder system; assessment of the effectiveness of medications; monitoring for side effects, negative reactions and drug interactions; and delegation and supervision of medication administration.

CBRF:

DHS 83.37(1)(b) Prescription medications shall come from a licensed pharmacy or a physician and shall have a label permanently attached to the outside of the container. Over-the-counter medications maintained in the manufacturer's container shall be labeled with the resident's name. Over-the-counter medications not maintained in the manufacturer's container shall be labeled by a pharmacist.

DHS 83.37(1)(c) The CBRF shall develop and implement a policy that identifies the medication packaging system used by the CBRF. Any pharmacy selected by the resident whose medications are administered by CBRF employees shall meet the medication packaging system chosen by the CBRF. This does not apply to residents who self administer medications.

DHS 83.37(2)(c) When medication administration is not supervised by a registered nurse, practitioner or pharmacist, the CBRF shall arrange for a pharmacist to package and label a resident's prescription medications in unit dose. Medications available over-the-counter may be excluded from unit dose packaging requirements, unless the physician specifies unit dose.

DHS 83.37(3)(a) The CBRF shall keep medications in the original containers and not transfer medications to another container, unless the CBRF complies with all of the following:

DHS 83.37(3)(a)1. Transfer of medications from the original container to another container shall be done by a practitioner, registered nurse, or pharmacist. Transfer of medication to another container may be delegated to other personnel by a practitioner, registered nurse or pharmacist.

DHS 83.37(3)(a)2. If a medication is administered by CBRF employees and the medication is transferred from the original container by a registered nurse, or practitioner or other personnel who were delegated the task, the CBRF shall have a legible label on the new container that includes, at a minimum, the resident's name, medication name, dose and instructions for use. The CBRF shall maintain the original pharmacy container until the transferred medication is gone.

DHS 83.37(3)(b) For use during unplanned or non-routine events or activities, employees who have completed medication administration training as required in [s. DHS 83.20 \(2\) \(d\)](#) may transfer unit doses of medications into packages for the resident.

DHS 83.37(3)(d) Medications stored in a common refrigerator shall be properly labeled and stored in a locked box.

Relevant DQA Memos:

[BQA Memo 04-029 Sample Medications](#)

[BQA Memo 04-006 Medication Setup in Assisted Living - REVISED](#)

[BQA Memo 01-037 CBRF/AFH February 2001
ETN Medication Management Question and Answer](#)

Other Resources:

[DQA Pharmacy NewsCapsule \(page 4, question 4\)](#)

[Assisted Living Workgroup Guidelines for Medication Packaging](#)

Best Practice, Tools & Forms:

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