

.43 Medicine Aide — Scope of Responsibility.

A. Upon successful completion of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene approved Medicine Aide Course, and when applicable, the continuing education course, the medicine aide may perform all medication administration functions except for those prohibited in §B of this regulation. These functions, including the following delegated nursing functions may only be performed by the aide under the direct supervision of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse:

- (1) Prepare, administer and chart oral, topical and suppositoral drugs;
- (2) Perform pulse and blood pressure measurements;
- (3) Administer PRN medicines under the following directive:

(a) For non-legend PRN drugs, the medicine aide administers under the supervision of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse,

(b) For legend drugs, the medicine aide shall inform the charge nurse, who shall first make a bedside assessment, and a written documentation of that assessment, before giving permission to a medicine aide to administer that medication;

- (4) Sign and have access to the controlled schedule drug cabinet; and
- (5) Administer drugs only with a written order.

B. The medicine aide shall be prohibited from performing the following duties:

- (1) Transcribing doctors' original orders to medicine charts or Kardexes;
- (2) Administering any parenteral medications;
- (3) Administering any substances by nasogastric or gastrostomy tubes; and
- (4) Receiving instructions for or being placed in charge level responsibilities.

C. On or after October 1, 1990, a medicine aide shall meet all applicable requirements of Regulations .39—.42, of this chapter, in addition to the requirements of this regulation.

.44 Medicine Aide Course Requirements.

A. Successful course completion will be recognized by the Department when:

(1) Before admission to the program, the applicant meets the following requirements:

(a) Possesses at least 1 year of full-time experience or its equivalent as a nursing assistant in a comprehensive care facility or extended care facility in Maryland;

(b) Evidences experience in basic patient care procedures; and

(c) Is currently employed as a geriatric nursing assistant in a comprehensive care facility or extended care facility.

(2) The curriculum satisfies the following model requirements:

(a) Is 60 hours in duration and gives equal weight to the theoretical and supervised clinical experience components;

(b) Includes each of the following pertinent subjects:

(i) Responsibilities and limitations of the medicine aide,

(ii) Drug standards, references and resources,

(iii) Legislation concerning drug utilization,

(iv) Characteristics of the elderly client (or exceptional) client-mentally retarded, multiple handicap:

(aa) Sources and purpose of drugs,

(bb) Dosage forms and methods of administration,

(cc) Drug life,

(dd) The medication order,

(ee) The administration of non-parenteral medications,

(ff) Procedures and techniques for administering drugs,

(gg) Drug classification, related health problems, and patient care responsibilities,

(hh) Drug solutions and their measurements, and

(ii) Monitoring for side effects of drugs and drug interactions.

B. As evidence of successful completion, the applicant shall possess a certificate issued to the applicant by the community college. Certificates issued by the community college shall remain valid proof of certification until June 30th of the second year following the date of issuance.

C. Certification beyond the initial two-year period is predicated upon the satisfactory completion of an 8-hour continuing education course designed as follows:

(1) A three-hour core content identifying:

(a) Current State regulations related to the role of the medicine aide;

(b) Uses, actions, related precautions, and possible interactions of current medications used in the care of the geriatric patient;

(c) New care procedures; and

(d) Resources available to the medicine aide which clarify and expand the knowledge of the medicine aide.

(2) Three hours on topics selected from the following:

(a) Documentation;

(b) Nutrition;

(c) The physiological system of the geriatric patient;

(d) Deinstitutionalization of the mentally retarded and psychiatric patient; or

(e) Other aspects of pharmacology.

(3) Two hours of assessment testing administered at the completion of the continuing education course.

(4) Each renewed certification shall be valid for a period of 2 years, until June 30th of the second year, following the satisfactory completion of the continuing education course.

D. An individual who has received a certificate evidencing completion of a program which the Department approved before the adoption of these regulations shall be deemed to meet the training requirements of this regulation.