

Medication Administration by family members and Medication Administration Certification Requirements

This guidance provides clarification on the statutes and authorizations for family members administering medications and performing health-related activities for individuals with developmental disabilities, as defined by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) sections 5123.41, 5123.42, and 5123.423.

Definition of Family Member

Family member, as defined in [ORC 5123.41](#), includes a parent, sibling, spouse, son, daughter, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, or guardian of an individual with a developmental disability if the individual with a developmental disability lives with the person and is dependent on the person to the extent that, if the supports were withdrawn, another living arrangement would have to be found.

Authorized Medication Administration and Health Care Tasks (without certification or nurse delegation)

Per [ORC 5123.423](#) family members meeting the above definition may perform the following medication administration and health-related activities without requiring Medication Administration certification or nurse delegation, as outlined in Category 1, 2 and 3 Medication Administration certifications and stand-alone authorizations:

- Medications by route
 - Oral
 - Topical
 - Inhaled, including oxygen
 - Glucagon by injector or nasal administration
 - G/J tube
 - Insulin by subcutaneous injection, inhaled or by pump
 - Injectable medications for the treatment of metabolic glyceimic disorders
 - Epinephrine by autoinjector or intranasally
- Health-related activities
 - Vital signs – temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure
 - Pulse oximetry
 - Application of clean dressings that do not require a health assessment
 - Intake and output measurement
 - Oral suctioning
 - Glucometer use (standard with fingerstick)
 - External urinary catheter care
 - Emptying and replacing ostomy bags
 - Application of percussion vests
 - Use of BiPAP/CPAP
 - Use of cough assist devices and insufflators
 - Application of prescribed compression hose
 - Clean catch urine sample collection
 - Vagus nerve stimulator

Specific Scenarios

➤ Ohio Shared Living (OSL) Providers – Living with Individual

- Family members providing Ohio Shared Living (as an independent provider or through an agency) are authorized to administer medication and perform specific health-related activities as noted above without Medication Administration Certification or nurse delegation.
 - Persons who are “related to” an individual {as defined in OAC 5123-9-33 (B) (12)} and are providing shared living under the individual options waiver are authorized to administer medication and perform specific health-related activities as noted above without Medication Administration Certification or nurse delegation.
 - As a Shared Living Provider delivering a paid service, documentation of medication administration and performance of health-related activities is required each day. This can be done on a MAR, pharmacy printout, or other suitable method, such as on a service delivery documentation sheet.

➤ Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC) Providers – Living with Individual

- Family members providing HPC (as an independent provider or through an agency) are authorized to administer medication and perform specific health-related activities as noted above without Medication Administration Certification or nurse delegation.
 - As a provider delivering a paid service, documentation of medication administration and performance of health-related activities is required each day. This can be done on a MAR, pharmacy printout, or other suitable method, such as on a service delivery documentation sheet.

➤ Family Members NOT Living with the Individual – Agency Employees

- **MUST** have Medication Administration certification and nurse delegation as applicable.

➤ Family Members NOT Living with the Individual – Independent Provider

- May receive **authorization** from a family who lives with the individual, or
- Must have **Medication Administration Certification and nurse delegation** as applicable to administer medications or perform specific health-related activities.

➤ Ohio Shared Living (OSL) Providers – Non-Family Members

- Persons who are not “related to” an individual {as defined in OAC 5123-9-33 (B) (12)} and are providing shared living under the individual options waiver must have Medication Administration Certification and nurse delegation as applicable to administer medications or perform specific health-related activities.

➤ Natural Family Support – Non-paid support

- Family members who are not paid providers, and who offer medication administration and health-related activities as part of natural family support do not require Medication Administration Certification or nurse delegation.

DODD Medication Administration Law is in the Ohio Revised Code 5123.41 through 5123.47; the companion rule is Ohio Administrative Code 5123-6. Ohio Board of Nursing Rules for delegation of nursing tasks are in the Ohio Administrative Code 4723-13.