

Definitions

administer – to give or direct application of a medication to the resident’s body whether by injection, inhalation, ingestion or any other means

administration route – how the medication is administered or given, i.e., orally, topically, subcutaneous injection, inhalation, nasal, rectally, vaginally, etc.

adult care home – an assisted living residence in which scheduled and unscheduled personal care services are provided to two or more residents; licensed under 131D; includes family care homes

aseptic – free of disease-causing organism

cognitive impairment – altered ability to think, to reason and/or remember which interferes with the ability to function normally

controlled substances – potentially dangerous or habit-forming medications whose sale and use are strictly regulated by law; retrievable records for the receipt, administration and disposition are required

disinfect – to render free from disease-causing organism

expiration date – date after which a medication should not be used

external medications – medications administered on the outside of the body such as creams, ointments or transdermal patches

facility – an adult care home, includes family care homes

frequency – how often a medication is administered, e.g., once daily, twice daily before meals, every four hours as needed for cough, etc.

generic medication – an often lesser expensive medication that may be deemed therapeutically equivalent by U.S. Food and Drug Administration to a trade name drug, because it has the same active ingredient(s) and identical in strength, dosage form and route of administration

medication administration record (MAR) – a legal record of the medications administered to a resident; provides instructions on what, how, and when to administer medications to a resident based on orders written by the health professional responsible for prescribing medications; a document that provides a location to document the act of administering or not administering a medication or medications to a resident

Definitions

medication error – when a medication is administered in any way other than how it was prescribed; administering a medication that is not prescribed for the resident is also a medication error

medication order – written or oral directions that a physician or other prescribing practitioner provides about a resident’s medication or medications; required to administer, change or discontinue any medication to a resident

ophthalmic – related to the eye, usually refers to eye drops or eye ointment with medication administration

otic – related to the ear, usually refers to the administration of eardrops

OSHA – abbreviations for Occupational Safety and Health Administration

over-the-counter medication – medication available without a prescription; common abbreviation is OTC; require an order for administration in an adult care home

prescribing practitioner – licensed health professional with the authority by law to diagnose and treat illnesses and prescribe medications

prescription medication – any medication required by federal law or regulation to be dispensed only pursuant to a prescription

PRN order – a medication order for a medication to be administered as needed within a particular time parameter prescribed by the physician or prescribing practitioner

Standard Precautions – established by OSHA to prevent contamination by blood borne pathogens; wearing gloves when handling body fluids, wearing protective equipment and disposing of biohazardous waste

routine order – medication order for a medication to be administered over a period of time until discontinued

trade name – licensed name under which a medication prepared by a specific manufacturer is sold; also known as proprietary or brand name