

Medication Aide – Nursing Home General Information

History

Effective July 1, 2006, North Carolina state laws added a medication aide registry for long-term care facilities (skilled nursing and nursing facilities) and oversight of the competency testing program. The medication aide registry operates under North Carolina rules and statutes for nursing homes ([N.C. § 131E-114.2\(b\)](#); [N.C. § 131E-270](#); and [10A NCAC 130 .0202](#)).

North Carolina Registries

To work as a Medication Aide in a nursing home, an individual must be:

- listed on the North Carolina Medication Aide Registry for Nursing Homes.
- listed on the North Carolina Nurse Aide I Registry.
- listed on the North Carolina North Carolina Health Care Personnel Registry for unlicensed healthcare personnel with no [substantiated](#) findings.

Per [G.S. 131E-270\(c\)](#), Medication Aides who have a [substantiated](#) finding, as defined in [G.S. 131E-256\(a\)\(1\)](#), on the North Carolina Health Care Personnel Registry are prohibited from working in a nursing home.

A listing on the North Carolina Medication Aide Registry for Nursing Homes does not qualify an individual to administer medications in an Adult Care facility.

North Carolina does not list Medication Aides by [reciprocity](#), endorsement, or transfer from other states.

Education Requirements And Competency Testing

An individual must pass a 24-hour North Carolina Board of Nursing-approved medication aide training program and pass the North Carolina state-approved competency examination to be listed on the Medication Aide Registry for Nursing Homes.

An individual cannot be listed on the Medication Aide Registry for Nursing Homes without first being listed on the Nurse Aide I Registry.

Where To Find A Training Program

For course information, contact your [local community college](#), [area health education center \(AHEC\)](#), your employer, or the [North Carolina Board of Nursing](#).

The [North Carolina Board of Nursing](#) maintains a list of instructors who are certified to teach the medication aide course.

Renewal

A listing on the Medication Aide Registry for Nursing Homes must be renewed every 24 consecutive months.

An individual must re-train and re-test if they do not meet the eligibility requirements for renewal.

Employer Responsibilities

Before allowing a Medication Aide to work in a nursing home facility, the following activities must be completed:

- Verify that the individual is listed in active status on the North Carolina Medication Aide Registry for Nursing Homes.
- Verify that the individual is listed in active status on the North Carolina Nurse Aide I Registry.
- Verify that the individual has no [substantiated](#) findings on the North Carolina Health Care Personnel Registry.
- Keep a record of accessing the above registries in your business files (e.g., the date and confirmation number assigned during access).
- A clinical skills validation, conducted by a Registered Nurse, is required before the Medication Aide performs medication administration tasks in the facility.