

DHSR Adult Care Licensure Section

Fiscal Impact Analysis

Permanent Rule Amendment without Substantial Economic Impact

Agency: North Carolina Medical Care Commission

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Impact: State government impact: No  
Local government: No  
Federal government Impact: No  
Substantial economic impact: No

Authorizing Statutes: G.S. 131D-2.16; 131D-4.5; 143B-165

Introductory Note:

The rules have been amended to allow adult care homes (adult care homes of more than six beds and family care homes) to package medications needed for a resident in a leave of absence from the facility instead of only being able to send one dose of each medication with the resident, sending all of the medication with the resident, or having a dispensing practitioner package the amount of medications needed for the leave of absence. It is not unusual for some adult care home residents to take a leave of absence for several days during which time they need to continue their medication regimen. It can be difficult for facilities to get specific amounts of medications for a resident's leave repackaged by a pharmacy due to distance and time factors. Some pharmacies will not repackage. The other alternative has been to send all the resident's medications with the resident or responsible party, but this creates resident health and safety concerns since the facility is no longer accountable for the medications as well as their administration. The amended rule will make the process of sending the needed medications with the resident easier yet assuring accountability for the medications and promoting safety of the resident.

Summary of Changes:

10A NCAC 13F .1003 and 13G .1003 – amendment allows for transfer of medication(s) from one container to another by the facility in cases of a resident temporarily leaving the facility as opposed to only a dispensing practitioner being able to repackage or all the medications in original packaging having to be sent with resident.

10A NCAC 13F .1010 and 13G .1010 – amendment addresses how the medication(s) to be sent with the resident on leave is to be packaged and labeled, who can do the packaging and labeling, how the resident is to be informed about the medication and what documentation the facility must have.

Anticipated Fiscal Impact:

There would be no fiscal impact on federal, state and local governments.

The impact on private sector entities, namely adult care and family care home providers, would be minimal but cannot be quantified due to lack of data on numbers of residents leaving facilities temporarily and number of medications involved. There could be some cost savings to those facilities who have been getting pharmacies to repackage medications if they do not pass this cost along to the residents. Cost to facilities would be in the packaging they choose to use for medications to be released with the resident. The rules do not address what the packaging has to be, only that it has to be properly labeled.