

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Personal Care Homes (55 Pa.Code Chapter 2600)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – December 2014

The clarifications and interpretations below will remain on the Department's web site until the information is included in the next updated Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG).

Regulation: § 2600.183(a) – Storage and Disposal of Medications and Medical Supplies, § 2600.184(a) - Labeling of Medications, § 2600.186(c) - Prescription Medications

§ 2600.183(a) - Prescription medications, OTC medications and CAM shall be kept in their original labeled containers and may not be removed more than 2 hours in advance of the scheduled administration. Assistance with insulin and epinephrine injections and sterile liquids shall be provided immediately upon removal of the medication from its container.

§ 2600.184(a) - The original container for prescription medications shall be labeled with a pharmacy label that includes the following:

- (1) The resident's name.*
- (2) The name of the medication.*
- (3) The date the prescription was issued.*
- (4) The prescribed dosage and instructions for administration.*
- (5) The name and title of the prescriber.*

§ 2600.186(c) - Changes in medication may only be made in writing by the prescriber, or in the case of an emergency, an alternate prescriber, except for circumstances in which oral orders may be accepted by nurses in accordance with regulations of the Department of State. The resident's medication record shall be updated as soon as the home receives written notice of the change.

Question: How should a home process a new order for a medication that has already been prescribed (such as a change in dosage or frequency)?

ANSWER: The prescriber faxes the new order to the home, the home then updates the Medication Administration Record (MAR) and places a sticker on the medication container reading "New Orders – See MAR", leaving the original label still visible.

Regulation: § 2600.232(a) – Environmental Protection

§ 2600.232(a) - The home shall provide exercise space, both indoor and outdoor.

Question: Must the outdoor exercise space in a secured dementia care unit (SDCU) be enclosed?

ANSWER: No. The regulation only requires that the home have an outdoor exercise space. While homes typically fence and lock these areas to provide security and reduce the need for staffing, no fence is required. Homes which do not have an enclosed SDCU outdoor area must provide for the residents' need for supervision via enhanced staffing while residents are outdoors.