

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Assisted Living Residences (55 Pa.Code Chapter 2800)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – December 2015

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: § 2800.183(f) – Storage and Disposal of Medications and Medical Supplies

§ 2800.183(f) - Prescription medications, OTC medications and CAM that are discontinued, expired or for residents who are no longer served at the residence shall be destroyed in a safe manner according to the Department of Environmental Protection and Federal and State regulations. When a resident permanently leaves the residence, the resident's medications shall be given to the resident, the designated person, if any, or the person or entity taking responsibility for the new placement on the day of departure from the residence.

Question: For residences that use a medication system which packages all of a resident's medication into a single cassette (rather than multiple blister packs), what is the residence to do regarding a discontinued medication when all of the pills are packaged together?

ANSWER: The residence should send the whole cassette of medication back to the pharmacy, where the pharmacy can properly dispose of the discontinued medication and repackage the rest of the current medication for the residence.