



Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

TO: Developmental Superintendents, Directors of Nursing and Nurse Managers

FROM: Kevin Aldridge, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Services

DATE: July 25, 2008

RE: Support for Medication Administration Rules

Greetings:

This memorandum is to provide you with information about how the Department will be supporting Medication Administration Rules and addressing questions, concerns, and technical assistance needs.

As you are aware, the nursing consultant position within the Office of Systems Innovation and Technical Assistance has been discontinued due to recent budget cuts. The Division of Community Services, however still has many nurses on staff. We have constructed an oversight system that takes advantage of these resources while providing for centralized response since support of Medication Administration also involves many other disciplines beyond medical.

Sally Clingman will manage the system, coordinate support to the field, and provide a single point of contact around the Med Administration rules. She will work closely with nursing staff on two levels, to ensure we can provide timely and accurate support to County Boards and Private Providers.

The functions of the Medication Administration Consultant have to do with the overall coordination of support to the field around Medication Administration and related rules. They include:

- Response to questions, concerns, requests for Technical Assistance from the field
- Facilitation and coordination of quarterly meetings of the Medication Administration Panel (see below)
- Coordination of access to the Medical/Nursing staff as needed

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- o Facilitation of research and response to all rule (non-medical) based questions, inquiries
- o Participation in Policy discussions around medication administration and related rules.

Access to Medical/Nursing professionals will occur through the Medical/Nursing Technical Assistance Panel. This panel will be a regionally based network of Director's of Nursing/Nurse Managers at the ten Developmental Centers. They will function as a regional resource accessible as needed through the Medication Administration Consultant. This panel will also provide support to ODMRDD regulatory and MUI personnel around medication administration.

The overall RN support to the Medication Administration Consultant comes in the form of the Medication Administration Panel. The Medication Administration Consultant will meet with the panel, made up of the Director's of Nursing/Nurse Manager from the Gallipolis Developmental Center and the Mt. Vernon Developmental Center, at least quarterly to review trends in Technical Assistance needs and any issues that come to the attention of the Consultant. This Panel can meet more often as needed.

We are confident that this process will allow for the coordination of the many aspects of support necessary in our current Medication Administration system. It also allows us to move toward some regionalization, in line with the MRDD Futures recommendations as well as creating new efficiencies while spurring new synergies.

For now, we will continue to maintain other means of support such as the RN discussion group and the Medication Administration support list serve. We will also continue to explore new ways of providing information and support to the field.

Please contact Sally Clingman at 614-752-0037 or by email at sally.clingman@dmr.state.oh.us and thank you for your continued dedication to providing the best possible services for Ohioans with disabilities.