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(This issue of LaDDC News is being reissued to provide additional clarifying information.)

Nurse Authorization and Training for Medication Administration and Non-complex Tasks

Beginning December 20, 2013, the requirements for a direct support worker (DSW) to administer medication and perform non-complex medical tasks are changing. The new regulations require the provision of “nurse authorization” accompanied by 16 hours of training. Additionally, the DSW will receive person-specific training for individuals for whom the nurse has authorized certain non-complex tasks. The nurse authorizing the tasks must document in writing that the trained DSW has demonstrated competency as provided in the rule.

In the past, certain procedures could only be performed by a DSW through a physician delegation. The new rule posted December 2012 does away with physician delegation, establishes nurse authorization and corresponding training for medication administration and non-complex tasks. The training mandated in the rule includes but is not limited to medication administration, documentation, skill-proficiency (universal precautions and vital signs) and person-specific training. Please review the [rule](#) for more details on the mandated training.

According to the rule, a nurse may authorize certain tasks for a person when all of the following conditions are met:

- The individual is in stable condition;
- The tasks may be performed according to exact directions;
- There is no need to alter the standard procedure; and
- The results are predictable.

The following tasks may be authorized by a nurse.

1. Administration of oral and topical medication, ointments, suppositories or a pre-measured dosage unit of an oral inhalant aerosol.
2. Provision of routine hydration, nutrition or medication by way of an established gastro-tube.
3. Other non-complex tasks as identified by guidelines established and approved by DHH and the nursing board.

Provider agencies have been working with OCDD to have DSWs trained in-house by nurse consultants or nursing staff. The training for DSWs is also offered through the [Louisiana Community and Technical College System's \(LCTCS\) Medication Administration Training Program](#). As a third option, the training requirement can be met through Certified Medication Attendant (CMA) certification. If the CMA or Technical College curriculum is selected, determination of competency by the provider's RN and any individual specific training that may be needed are also required.

