



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

QMAP Medication Administration:

Injectable Medications

Qualified Medication Administration Personnel (QMAPs) are unlicensed persons who attend a short training session which qualifies them to administer medication in settings authorized by state law (25-1.5-301, C.R.S.), the facilities are:

Adult foster care facilities

Assisted Living Residences

Alternative care facilities

Residential child care facilities

Secure residential treatment centers

Residential facilities that provide treatment for mentally ill persons

Services in support of persons with developmental disabilities funded and regulated by the Department of Human Services

[State certified adult day programs](#)

Correctional System

For those facilities outside the oversight of the correctional system or the Colorado Department of Human Services (certified Adult Day programs, Alternative Care Facilities and Assisted Living Residences), QMAPs may only administer medications as instructed by CDPHE through the QMAP curriculum, license regulations and in accordance with statute.

According to 25-1.5-301, C.R.S., “Administration” means:

assisting a person in the ingestion, application, inhalation, or , using universal precautions, rectal or vaginal insertion of medication, including prescription drugs, according to the legibly written or printed directions of the attending physician or other authorized practitioner or as written on the

prescription label. “administration” does not include judgment, evaluation, or assessments, or the injections of medication.

Administration does not include injections:

The department has recently become aware of cases where QMAPs are utilized to assist with insulin administration; one recent event could have resulted in dire consequences for the resident. The QMAP did not understand the insulin orders nor the concepts including insulin actions and longevity causing the person’s blood glucose levels to spiral downward.

A nurse may supervise or oversee medication administration personnel only as an employee of the licensed entity authorized by law to utilize QMAPS. Such licensed facility is required to provide such supervision under established facility policy and procedure.

Pursuant to 6 CCR 1011-1 CH XXIV Medication Administration 5.5, unless otherwise authorized by statute, qualified medication administration staff members shall not:

- (A) Administer medication through a gastrostomy tube, or
- (B) Prepare, draw up or administer medication in a syringe for injection into the bloodstream or skin, including insulin pens.

There is an increasing trend in the home care field to direct medication administration actions and sometimes provide in-services to QMAPs instructing them to provide services outside statutory authority or regulations. A home care or hospice agency providing nursing services to residents/participants of licensed entities authorized to use QMAPS should not delegate or otherwise direct the QMAP staff.

Per statute, only medication prescriptions received in writing from a physician or other authorized practitioner may be administered by a QMAP. Further, such orders should not require judgment, evaluations, or assessment in order to properly administer the medications.

QMAPs are not allowed to administer medications as an employee of a Home Health or Hospice agency under any circumstances.

For further information please contact:

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