

Options for Medication Management when a Resident Unexpectedly Goes out of a Facility on a Short Pass (Four hours or Less)

When a Resident or their Family Member unexpectedly requests medications to be prepared so they can go out on pass from the **Assisted Living Facility or Basic Care Facility** for a short period of time, not to exceed four hours, and there is no licensed nurse or practitioner available to prepare the medications, the following options can be implemented, consistent with facility policy.

Option 1. In situations where there is a licensed nurse working or on call, the licensed nurse could repackage medications consistent with the "Procedures for Residents/Patients Going on Pass from Long-Term-Care, including Basic Care and Assisted Living Facilities Guidelines" developed by the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy in conjunction with the North Dakota Board of Nursing and North Dakota Department of Health.

Option 2. The pharmacy or facility licensed nurse can prepared ahead of time for such occurrences. One day of medications for the resident can be prepared ahead of time for such occurrences, with medication placed in acceptable containers consistent with the facility's policies, and labeled with the resident's name, medication name(s) and dose, and time of administration.

If the resident or family member would like to take the resident out on short pass over a medication administration time, the medication aide could provide the resident or family member with the prepackaged medications prepared and labeled for this person by the pharmacist or licensed nurse for the four hour period, and document that the medications were sent with the resident or family.

Option 3. Medications may be given up to one hour before or one hour after the scheduled administration time. If possible, provide the resident with their medications prior to leaving the facility or when they get back if consistent with this timeframe.

Option 4. If the resident self administers his or her medications and uses the medi-planner, the resident may take the medi-planner with him or her and continue to take their medications as scheduled.

This memorandum was prepared by the North Dakota Department of Health, and reviewed and approved by staff from the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy and North Dakota Board of Nursing.

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