

Guidance on Medication Administration Supports



The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has guidance on how to determine the right supports needed for safe and accurate medication administration. The type of supports, and certification requirements of those helping with medication administration, is determined by the self-administration assessment.

If/when the assessment is used to establish the need for medication administration, treatments, health-related activities assistance or support, it must be completed at a minimum of every three years; with a review for potential status changes done at least annually.

The reassessment may indicate changes in the level/type of supports needed. Supports may need to be increased or decreased due to development of knowledge, skills, and ability.

If an individual is assessed as:

Can safely self-administer

Any additional support provided, in-person or remote, **does not** require Medication Administration certification.

Can safely self-administer with one of the three types of assistance (see below)

The support provided, in-person or remote, **does not** require Medication Administration certification.

Unable to self-administer medications with or without one of the three types of assistance (see below)

Further assessment is done to determine the steps the person can safely do. The support, in-person or remote, **must be** provided by developmental disabilities personnel with Medication Administration certification.

REMEMBER

It is important to remember that each person has the inherent right to self-administer their medications independently if capable, or with assistance. A person is presumed to be able to self-administer unless there is a substantive indication that the person wants or needs supports.

Types of Assistance

1. Remind an individual when to take the medication and observe the individual to ensure that the individual follows the directions on the container;
2. Assist an individual by taking the medication in its container from the area where it is stored, handing the container with the medication in to the individual, and opening the container, if the individual is physically unable to open the container, or;
3. Assist, on request by or with the consent of, a physically impaired but mentally alert individual, with removal of oral prescribed medication or topical prescribed medication from the container and physically assist with the individual's taking or applying of the medication. If an individual is physically unable to place a dose of oral prescribed medication to the individual's mouth without spilling or dropping it, developmental disabilities personnel may place the dose in another container and place that container to the individual's mouth.

To access the guidance, [click here](#) or scan below.



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Admin. Supports**

For questions regarding Medication Administration, please contact DODD at ma.database@dodd.ohio.gov.