

FAQS: Medication Administration Medication Organizers/Med Bars

Question: Is the medication organizer considered pre-pouring ?

Answer: Use of medication organizers/med bars that are prepared for an individual who can self-administer medication, or is in a formal program of training to become self-administering is not considered pre-pouring. Medication organizers cannot be prepared for an AMAP to use to administer medications.

Question: Is the medication organizer expected to have a medication label?

Answer: According to the State Board of Pharmacy and the State Board of Nursing, the medication organizer only needs to be labeled with the person's name.

Question: If we use a medication organizer without label, would this conflict with requirement to label medication containers? Is this out of regulation?

Answer: No, it is acceptable and we are in the process of revising the 633.17 regulation to clarify this point.

Question: How many days of medications may be placed into medication containers/med bars?

Answer: Up to 8 days of medication may be placed into a medication organizer/med bar. Preparing medications in advance includes the pre-filling of insulin syringes.

Question: Who can fill a medication organizer/med bar?

Answer: Nurses and AMAP staff may fill the medication organizer/med bar. It is recommended that one Nurse or AMAP fill the bar, and another nurse or AMAP check it.

Question: Can consumers take med bars on trips?

Answer: Yes

Question: Can a narcotic pill go in the medication organizer/med bar?

Answer: Yes. Make sure it is marked off on narcotic sheet. The medication organizer/med bar does not need to be in locked storage. It must be maintained in such a manner to ensure its security and the safety of the individuals.

Question: Can staff place medications in a medication organizer for a family member to administer?

Answer: The State Board for Pharmacy and the State Board for Nursing have determined that it is acceptable for staff to "set up" (otherwise known as re-package) medication in a commercially available medication organizer for *family* to administer to a person while they are away from the facility.

A sheet with the physical description of each pill, its name and what it is for is to accompany the organizer. For example:

7 AM: peach, oval pill with "2775" on it = Avalide 125/12.5 for high blood pressure

8 PM: small white round pill with "AM9" on it = Toprol XL 50 mg for high blood pressure

Bedtime: red, oval capsule = Colace 100 mg Stool softener

The sheet is to include a place for the signature of the person who re-packaged the medication. For example:

Repackaged by :

Signature

Date

Please note: This applies only to *families and unpaid personal friends*.

Medications may not be set up in medication organizers for paid staff to administer to a person incapable of self-administration.