

MEMORANDUM

Texas Department of Human Services Long Term Care Policy * Survey and Certification Clarification

TO: Long Term Care-Regulatory
Regional Directors and State Office Managers

FROM: Veronda L. Durden
Acting Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Long Term Care-Regulatory

SUBJECT: Daily Reminder Medication Pill Box - **S&CC Memorandum 04-04**

APPLIES TO: Licensed Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSA) Program

DATE: July 26, 2004

Is a physician's order required to fill a daily reminder medication pill box?

A physician's order is not required for a licensed nurse to fill a daily reminder medication pill box. Filling a medication pill box is viewed as a management tool that a licensed nurse may utilize at his or her discretion, based upon an assessment of the individual client's needs.

When a licensed nurse chooses to utilize this management tool, it is the licensed nurse's responsibility to verify that the medications placed in the daily reminder medication pill box are from a properly dispensed prescription bottle, according to the Board of Nurse Examiners' rule at 22 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §225.11(a)(1). A licensed nurse may respond to a client's needs by filling the daily reminder medication pill box to make it possible for clients to take their medications accurately and consistently. The licensed nurse should decide whether to do this or not on a case-by-case basis.

HCSSAs must adopt and enforce a written policy to ensure compliance with the above-mentioned Board of Nurse Examiners' rule according to 40 TAC §97.298(a). They must also adopt and enforce a written policy that specifies the agency's client care policies, according to 40 TAC §97.281.

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Linda Kotek, HCSSA Program Specialist, Long Term Care-Regulatory Policy, at (512) 438-3158.

(signature on file)

Veronda L. Durden

VLD:skp