



COMMISSIONER  
Jon Weizenbaum

May 20, 2013

To: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability or Related Conditions (ICFs/IID)

Subject: **Provider Letter 13-15** – Separate Storage of Oral and Topical Medications

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services is issuing this letter to provide guidance regarding the separation of oral and topical medication within an individual's medication box.

42 Code of Federal Regulations §483.460(l)(1) (W377) requires an ICF/IID to store drugs under proper conditions of sanitation.

It is easy for topical ointments and creams to get on the outside of the tube or container when being dispensed. If an individual's topical medications are stored in a box that also contains his or her oral medications, some ointment or cream may get on the outside of a pill bottle or blister pack. When a pill is removed from the pill bottle or blister pack, ointment or cream may get on the pill. Due to the potential for contamination, this is not considered a proper sanitation condition. Therefore, an individual's topical ointments and creams must be stored separately from his or her oral medications.

A facility's failure to store an individual's oral and topical medications separately could result in a surveyor citing a deficiency.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact an ICF/IID specialist in the Policy, Rules and Curriculum Development unit at 512-438-3161.

Sincerely,

Veronda L. Durden  
Assistant Commissioner  
Regulatory Services

VLD/CG