



Long-Term Care Regulation Provider Letter

Number: PL 2024-13
Title: Administration of Injectable Medications in Assisted Living Facilities
Provider Types: Assisted Living Facilities (ALF)
Date Issued: August 22, 2024

1.0 Subject and Purpose

This letter clarifies types of injectable medications that can be administered in assisted living facilities (ALF).

2.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

Due to the complexities and nursing judgement often involved with the administration of injectable medications, only the following injectable medications may be administered by unlicensed personnel under the delegation of a registered nurse.

2.1 Scheduled Injectable Medications for the Treatment of Stable and Predictable Diabetes Mellitus

Texas Board of Nursing rule §225.12¹ permits an RN to delegate the administration of pre-calculated and scheduled insulin (such as weekly or daily dose insulin administration through an injectable) when the resident's condition is stable and predictable, as determined by the facility's staff RN or contracted RN. As such, scheduled doses of insulin that are dialed in on a pen injector or drawn up from an insulin vial may be delegated to unlicensed personnel at the discretion of the RN.

¹ [§225.12](#)

Oral medications for the treatment of diabetes can also be administered by unlicensed personnel under the delegation of the facility's staff RN or contracted RN.

2.2 Sliding-scale Injectable Insulin for the Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus that is Stable and Predictable

The facility's delegating RN may delegate sliding-scale insulin administration to unlicensed personnel for the treatment of stable and predictable² diabetes. The RN must follow BON guidance for the delegation of insulin administration and is responsible for ensuring the resident's condition is stable and predictable for the duration of the delegated task. The facility must also ensure the resident's physician's orders and the medication administration record reflect the exact parameters of the prescribed sliding-scale insulin, and that staff are trained on what to do if a glucose reading falls outside of the documented parameters.

A resident receiving sliding-scale insulin must be closely monitored for any signs and symptoms of complications, such as low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) or high blood sugar (hyperglycemia), which can quickly lead to a medical emergency if unrecognized and untreated.

2.3 Administration of Injectable Medications Other than Those Used for the Treatment of Stable and Predictable Diabetes Mellitus

Board of Nursing rules at 225.13³ do not permit injectable medications, other than those used for the treatment of stable and predictable diabetes mellitus, to be delegated to unlicensed personnel. An RN employed or contracted by the facility is permitted to administer injectable medications other than those prescribed for the treatment of stable and predictable diabetes mellitus.

2.4 The Role of Medication Aides

² [§225.4](#)

³ [§225.13](#)

Medication Aide rules at 557.105⁴ prohibit permitted medication aides from administering any injectable medications, including insulin for the treatment of stable and predictable diabetes mellitus. Note that this can result in situations in which unlicensed personnel are able to administer insulin under delegation when a medication aide is not.⁵

Medication aides who are trained by the nurse whose license they are working under can participate in preparing an injection, such as dialing in a dose on a prefilled pen injector, for self-administration of the injection by a resident. Medication aides cannot participate in preparing an injection to be administered by other personnel, such as a licensed nurse or unlicensed staff.

Oral medication used for the treatment of diabetes mellitus can be administered by a medication aide under the purview of their permit.

3.0 Background/History

ALFs may administer injectable medications for individuals with diabetes mellitus or other medical conditions; however, which personnel are authorized to administer the medications depends on the credentials of the individual, type of medication, and the resident's condition.

The facility is ultimately responsible for the overall well-being and safety of all residents within the ALF setting. Facilities that administer injectable medications for the treatment of diabetes mellitus, or other conditions, must have policies and procedures in place related to service delivery⁶.

4.0 Resources

[Texas Board of Nursing](#)

[Texas Board of Nursing Delegation Frequently Asked Questions](#)

⁴ [§557.105](#)

⁵ Under BON rules at [§224.11](#), an RN's delegation must take into account the applicability of "other laws and regulations," and where such other laws and regulations are inconsistent with the BON's delegation rules, must comply with the "most restrictive requirement(s) that govern."

⁶ [§553.259](#)

[ALF: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Medication Aide Rules](#)

5.0 Contact Information

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy and Rules Section by email at LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov or call (512) 438-3161.