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Memo to: All Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Nurses and Providers

Memo from: Betsy Finley, RN DDS - Clinical Services Bureau Chief

Topic: Delivery of medications in an emergency

These Emergency medications are the ONLY medications that may be delivered immediately by the Direct Support Professional (DSP) *without* the prior approval from the nurse. This may only be done to prevent a life-threatening medical situation and only after documented training has occurred.

This can only occur if the medication is:

1. Ordered by the Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) or Medical Specialist for a specific use
2. Listed on the person's Medication Administration Record (MAR) and identified for use in a specific urgent/emergent situation
3. Specified in an MERP for the person with specific instructions regarding the life-threatening medical situation with instructions for use AND
4. The DSP have received individual specific training to skill level regarding the health issue, when and how to provide the medication and when and how to contact emergency services and the agency nurse

The Emergency meds are:

- EpiPens for anaphylaxis
- Intranasal or rectal benzodiazepines for seizure control
- Nitroglycerine for angina/chest pain
- Rescue inhalers or nebulizers for severe asthma.
- Glucagon for hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) as ordered
- Naloxone for opiate-induced respiratory failure

The DSP must follow the MERP. Give medication, call 911 and notify the nurse as soon as safely possible after delivery of the medication.

The Agency Nurse must ensure the following:

- The emergency medications are ordered by a licensed prescribing practitioner. The indications for emergency use must be clearly stated in the order.
- The Nurse must create a Medical Emergency Response Plan (MERP) that includes:
 - clear directions about the use of the medication.
 - what actions must be taken before and after the administration of the medication, including calling 911 for the person and prompt notification of the nurse.
- The Nurse must provide training to skill level for Direct Support Professionals regarding:
 - How to carry medications
 - When and how to administer the medication;
 - What actions must be taken after the medication use. These *must* include emergency care; prompt notification of the nurse or prompt in-person assessment by the nurse if 911 transport did not occur.