

NOTICE

From: Department of Public Health, Medication Administration Program (MAP)
To: MAP Administrators and Coordinators
Date: March 16, 2020
Subject: COVID-19 – LOA Medication Supply Exception

It has come to attention that families of individuals living in DDS, DMH or DCF programs have decided to take the individuals home with them rather than have them remain in the residential programs during the COVID19 pandemic. It may be unclear how long the individual will remain with their family.

According to MAP Policy, MAP Certified staff can package up to a 72-hour supply of medications for Leaves of Absence (LOAs). If a longer LOA is planned, the pharmacy must package the medications.

During the State of Emergency, declared by Governor Baker on March 10, 2020, pharmacies may not be able to prepare medications for longer LOAs in a timely manner due to volume, scarce resources, and uncertainty as to how long individuals will be with family.

DPH, DDS, DMH and DCF will allow the individual's remaining supply of medications to be given to families if it is expected that they will be out of the residence for longer than 72 hours. The medications may be in blister packaging or in bottles.

MAP Certified staff must strictly adhere to MAP Policies on documentation of the chain of custody of the medications using the transfer of medications process and LOA medication documentation procedures typically used between MAP Programs and for LOA. Failure to do so may result in questions related to possible diversion of medications.

If the individual returns home earlier than anticipated, programs can accept the medications back into the program only if they are stored in tamper resistant packaging. In such cases, the contents of the blister pack must be verified by a licensed health care professional or the pharmacy.

No bottles of pills can be accepted back into MAP programs.

If you have any questions please contact your DDS, DMH or DCF MAP Coordinator.