

Department of Human Services Information Bulletin



To: Agency Providers, Community Care Residence Providers, Distribution

Date: November 26, 2013

Subject: Medication Administration: Unit Use Packaging

With the goal of keeping the Department of Human Services' partners and the people it serves informed about issues related to the health, welfare, and safety of the people we serve, we are issuing this information bulletin on the use of medication packs containing multiple medications. We thank you in advance for your efforts to improve the quality of services to the individuals we serve.

Sincerely,

Lauri Woodward, Director
Office of Program Integrity and Accountability

Background

Increasing numbers of service providers are utilizing pharmacy services that employ unit use packaging (e.g. blister, bubble, or roll packs), wherein there is more than one product in the single unit.

New Jersey Administrative Code 13:39 "Board of Pharmacy Rules", Chapter 9.2 et seq. defines and approves "Unit use packaging" as a single unit use medication provided in sealed packaging which contains the following information for each unit in the package:

- Strength and/or quantity and/or volume, where appropriate;
- Use by date;
- Manufacturer or repackager; and
- If there is more than one product in the single unit, a physical description of each medication in the single unit.

Guidelines

All service providers utilizing unit use packaging shall assure compliance with the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:44A "Standards for Community Residences for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities" subchapter 5.2et seq. "Prescription Medication" and N.J.A.C. 13:39 "Board of Pharmacy Rules" subchapter 9.2 et seq.

All CCR Providers shall assure compliance with the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:44B"Standards for Community Care Residences" subchapter 5.2et seq. "Prescription Medication".

All service providers shall assure their pharmacy service picks up unused medications and reissues the new prescription medication, to assure unit use packages are not altered by providers or staff.

The licensing standards N.J.A.C.10:44A, N.J.A.C.10:44B and N.J.A.C.10:44C are available at the Department of Human Services Office of Licensing Website at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ool/licensing/>