

Prerequisites for the Medication Administration – Practicum Observer

Practicum Observer Course Purpose:

The purpose of taking the Practicum Observer course is to provide assistance to agency trainers by conducting monitoring activities for medication administration.

While the agency use of the practicum observer role is optional, it offers some benefits to providers. This strategy helps agencies avoid the costs of developing more trainers than they need to teach the course. By using the practicum observers to monitor staff, trainers can focus on the training and oversight of the agency's medication administration program.

A practicum observer assists the trainer by conducting monitoring activities for medication administration. Practicum observers conduct medication administration observations and review documentation on Medication Records for both the initial medication administration training and the annual practicum.

Prerequisites for staff/agency Practicum Observer Candidates:

Practicum Observer candidates are required to meet the following prerequisites prior to participating in the Medication Administration Practicum Observer course:

- a. Staff/agency Practicum Observer candidates are licensed or unlicensed staff presently employed by the provider agency in one of the following DHS or Department of Aging licensed settings:
 - Chapter 2380: Adult Training Facilities (ATF)
 - Chapter 2390: Vocational Facilities
 - Chapter 2600: Personal Care Homes (PCH)
 - Chapter 2800: Assisted Living
 - Chapter 3800: Child Residential and Day Treatment Facilities
 - Chapter 6400: Community Homes for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (serving eight or fewer individuals)
 - Chapter 6600: Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (serving eight or fewer individuals)

- Chapter 6600: Intermediate Care Facilities for Other Related Conditions (ICF/ORC) (serving eight or fewer individuals)
 - Title 6 Aging, Chapter 11: Adult Day Services
 - *OMHSAS-Waiver Approved Providers: Crisis Intervention, CRR, LTSR, and RTF-A
- b. Practicum Observer candidate has completed and passed the DHS Medication Administration Standard Student course with the following exceptions: staff with a current and valid license to practice in Pennsylvania (RN, LPN, MD, RPh., PharmD, PA, CRNP) are excluded from the requirement of taking the Medication Administration Standard Student course prior to enrolling in and attending the Practicum Observer course.
- c. A practicum observer must have experience administering medication, either currently or in the past. Practicum observers need a working knowledge of the principles and practices of medication administration and knowledge of agency specific medication administration policies and procedures.
- d. To be qualified to take the course, you must be 18 and must possess either a high school diploma or GED. You must verify that the course is offered by your employer and determine if there are additional internal requirements that you would have to meet.
- e. Please note that this course is administered in English. Users should be able to speak, read, write, and communicate effectively in English to complete the Medication Administration Training Program course requirements.
- f. All training to serve in the role of a medication administrator or practicum observer is provided by the employer. Instruction to trainers who are employed by agencies in the above settings is provided by the DHS Medication Administration Training Course.