



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Home and Community Living Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

June 13, 2025

AFH #2025-025

ALF #2025-023

ESF #2025-016

**MEDICATION ASSISTANCE RULE UPDATE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED
AND IN-HOME CARE SETTINGS**

Dear Provider/Administrator:

We are writing to inform providers/administrators of the medication assistance rule update for Chapter [246-945 WAC](#) for community-based and in-home care settings.

On April 1, 2025, the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission filed a rule adoption package to finalize the medication assistance rules found in Chapter [246-945 WAC](#). Emergency rules were filed to reinstate medication assistance rules as allowed by [RCW 69.41](#), establishing criteria for assistance in these settings. The April 1, 2025, filing was part of the permanent rulemaking process to finalize and update these guidelines.

The adopted regulations establish criteria for medication assistance in community-based and in-home care settings in accordance with Chapter [69.41 RCW](#), which states:

"Medication assistance" means assistance rendered by a nonpractitioner to an individual residing in a community-based care setting or in-home care setting to facilitate the individual's self-administration of a legend drug or controlled substance. It includes reminding or coaching the individual to take their medication, handing the medication container to the individual, opening the individual's medication container, using an enabler, or placing the medication in the individual's hand, handing an individual their prefilled insulin syringe, transferring an individual's medication from one container to another in order to prepare an individual dose, and medication alteration, provided the individual is aware their medication is being altered.

The updated rules, effective **May 2, 2025**, create permanent guidelines and strengthen the regulatory framework for medication assistance practices under the commissions and department's jurisdiction.

The following WAC's have been added to Chapter [246-945 WAC](#):

- **246-945-710 Scope and applicability.**
- **246-945-712 Definitions.**
- **246-945-714 Medication assistance by nonpractitioners.**
- **246-945-716 Self-Administration in a licensed assisted living facility.**
- **246-945-718 Medication assistance-restrictions.**

Dear Provider/Administrator: **MEDICATION ASSISTANCE RULE UPDATE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED AND IN-HOME CARE SETTINGS**

June 13, 2025


Page 2

The repeal of Chapter 246-888 WAC in March 2021 caused disruptions in medication assistance within community and in-home care settings, leading to the need for new regulations. The repealed medication assistance rules in Chapter 246-888 WAC have been moved to Chapter [246-945 WAC](#). RCS is currently updating this reference within our chapters.

RCS rule writing related to medication assistance regulations following the recent passage of [Senate House Bill \(SHB\) 1720](#) for community-based settings, including assisted living facilities, adult family homes, and enhanced services facilities will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Meyers, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov or (360) 464-0373.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Abbott", followed by the word "for" in a smaller font.

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*

Related References: [246-945 WAC](#), [Chapter 69.41 RCW](#), [SHB 1720](#)