



TITLE:	MEDICATION REFUSAL BY RESIDENT	POLICY 16.12
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Authority: WAC 388-IBA-2230

PURPOSE:

Provides guidelines in cases where a resident refuses medication.

SCOPE:

All nursing staff.

POLICY:

We provide residents, who require assistance or administration, with their medications as prescribed by the health care practitioner. Resident rights are observed whenever a resident chooses not to take a prescribed medication.

PROCEDURE:

1. When a resident who is receiving medication assistance or administration services from the boarding home chooses to not take his or her medications, the facility will:
 - a. Contact a licensed nurse, if the facility employs a licensed nurse, to evaluate the significance of the resident not receiving his or her medication, and
 - b. Take appropriate action, including notifying the prescriber or health care practitioner when there is a consistent pattern of the resident choosing to not take his or her medications.

2. If there is not a licensed nurse available to evaluate the significance of the resident's refusal of medication(s), the designated staff person will:
 - a. Notify the prescriber or health care practitioner of the resident's patterned refusal of the medication;
 - b. Inform the practitioner that she or he is not a licensed nurse, and therefore cannot accept telephone orders; the caller can request the practitioner either fax any orders, or contact the pharmacy directly if there are new



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- medication orders;
- c. Follow any direction of the practitioner, so long as the direction does not require the designated staff person does not have to utilize nursing judgment or otherwise work outside his or her scope of practice in order to follow the directions.
- 3. The licensed nurse or designated staff person documents the resident's refusal of the medication (including time and date), along with the staff person's response to the refusal and the practitioner's direction(s), in the resident's record.
- 4. The facility may have a pre-determined plan to follow, in accordance with the resident's health care practitioner, whenever the resident chooses not to take prescribed medications.

EXCEPTIONS:

No exceptions to this policy may be granted without the prior written approval of the Director.

SUPERCEDES:

None