

**Life Services Network - State by State Breakdown of Medication Aide Programs**

State	Allow?	Description of program
Alabama	Considering	References that they are <b>considering creating a licensed position of certified medication technician</b> , but it does not appear that they currently have one.
Alaska	No	Does not appear to have medication aides
Arizona	Pilot	House Bill 2256, passed in 2004, <b>establishes a pilot program allowing certified nursing assistants, called medication technicians, to administer pills and topical medication to patients.</b> The State Board of nursing will administer the program and reports its findings on or before Dec. 1, 2008. The program is limited to 6 SNFs. The participants must have worked in the facility as a certified nursing assistant for at least six months, complete 45 hours of didactic study, 15 hours of skills lab practice and 40 hours of supervised clinical, and pass a state board competency exam.
Arkansas	Yes	Act 1423 (August 12, 2005) allows for the use of medication assistive persons to administer prescription and nonprescription medication in designated health care facilities. They cannot calculate drug dosages, order initial medications, or perform treatments. They are required to have been a certified nurse aide in the state for at least one year, complete one year of full-time experience as a certified nurse aide, complete at least 100 hours of a medication assistive person training course, and pass the state board exam.
California	Considering	<b>Will be introducing legislation addressing medication training for caregivers in assisted living.</b>
Colorado	Yes	Senate Bill 05-155 (2005) allows CNA's to become medication aides and administer medication in a nursing facility. They must have spent at least 2000 hours working as a certified nurse aide in a nursing facility, complete 10 credit hours of training courses and pass a board examination.
Connecticut	Pilot	PA99-80 (1999) calls for the Department of Public Health to adopt regulations to allow unlicensed personnel in residential care homes to administer medicine. <b>HB 5245 (2006) - Creates a medication technician pilot program.</b> A medication technician must be a current nurse's aide and have maintained good standing for at least 2 years, must be recommended by the director of nurses at the facility at which the nurse's aide is employed, must have completed a training program of 45 hours of pharmacology training and 80 supervised clinical hours. They must also pass a written exam and a practical administered by a nurse. They can administer medicine at chronic and convalescent nursing homes and rest homes with nursing supervision. The program must start by April 1, 2007 and will end no later than September 30, 2009. It will involve 30 facilities.
Delaware	No	Does not appear to have medication aides
District of Columbia	Pilot	Found references to the future creation of a medication training aide program for assisted living residences, but could not find information regarding the specifics. <i>"Assisted living residences. Trained aides may administer medications. A medication aide training program approved by the board of nursing will be developed. ALRs must arrange for an on-site review by a registered nurse every 45 days that covers supervision of administration by trained medication aides, resident responses to medications, and resident ability to self-administer medications."</i>
Florida	Considering	Does not appear to have medication aides, but <b>will be proposing legislation on the issue.</b>
Georgia	Yes	SB 480 (2006) 'Georgia Qualified Medication Aide Act allows for nurses to delegate the administration of medication to medication aides and gives the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses the authority to create the regulations for medication aides. Did not find reference to these regulations. However, in 2005 there was a Medication Aide Pilot program taught only at one college. It required 16 hours of continuing education between renews.
Hawaii	No	Does not appear to have medication aides
Idaho	Considering	Legislation has been introduced this year to allow for certification of medication aides in Idaho. The bill is supported by the Board of Nursing.
Illinois	No	Do not have medication aides; a bill to allow medication technicians (HB 822) died in the Senate last year. It is currently a hot topic and the state affiliate is in the process of gathering more information and support to push for them again. <b>Medication aides have been allowed in DD facilities since 1999.</b>
Indiana	Yes	A certified nurse aide can become a qualified medication aide. They must have completed 1,000 work hours as a CNA. They must complete a training program of 100 hours – 60 hours of classroom instruction and 40 hours of supervised practicum, and pass a competency exam.
Iowa	Yes	Allows certified nurse aides to become medication aides to administer medicine in a nursing, residential or living facility under the direct supervision of a registered nurse. They must be sponsored by the employer facility and have worked at that facility for at least six months. They must complete a 60 hour course of 40 hours of lecture and 20 hours of clinical in a long-term care facility.
Kansas	Yes	Certified nursing aides can become certified medication aides. They must be nominated by a postsecondary school under the jurisdiction of the state board of regents or a professional health care association, complete 75 hours of training, including 25 hours of clinical instruction, and pass a state test. Must complete 10 hours of continuing education every two years.
Kentucky	Yes	HB 73 (2004) certifies medication aides to dispense medication in long-term care facilities as delegated and supervised by licensed nurses. They must have been a nurse aide in a health care facility for the last two years. They have to complete an education program and take a state exam.
Louisiana	Yes	SB 680 (2006) – revises current law to add to nurses' duties the delegation of administration of medication based on the regulations for training and certification of medication aides.
Maine	Yes	Allows Certified Residential Medication Aides. Certain levels of residential care facilities, PNMI's and assisted living facilities have workers trained in medication administration to administer meds. CRMAs must complete 40 hours of classroom training and complete a clinical program. The Bureau of Elder and Adult Services monitors the program.
Maryland	Yes	SB 405 (2004) - Certified Medication Technician – must complete 20 hours of training. They may administer medications at the delegation of and under the supervision of registered nurses to clients in a community based setting. The registered nurse, case manager/delegating nurse must make an on site home visit to the client setting at a minimum of every 45 days. HB 1080 (2006) – State Board of Nursing has the authority to set the standards for the practice of certified medication technicians.
Massachusetts	Yes	<b>Has medication aides in level 4 rest homes.</b> Non-licensed staff are allowed to administer medications. Medication aides are not allowed in skilled nursing or assisted living facilities.
Michigan	Considering	Do not have medication aides, however <b>the State has agreed to take up the issue at the first of the year</b> , following the elections.
Minnesota	Yes	Allows certified nursing assistants to become trained medication aides to administer medication in nursing facilities.
Mississippi	No	Does not appear to have medication aides
Missouri	Yes	Requires 16 hours of classes for a medication aide to administer medicine at resident care facilities.

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State	Allow?	Description of program
Montana	Yes	HB 681 (2003) - Certified medication aides must complete training and pass an exam. They may only administer medication in assisted living facilities.
Nebraska	Yes	A medication aide may assist competent individuals, caretakers who are legal guardians, parents, etc, and licensed health care providers with the administration of medication. Medication aides in nursing homes, ICF-MRs, or assisted living facilities must also complete a 40-hour course and pass a state exam.
Nevada	No	Does not appear to have medication aides
New Hampshire	Yes	Licensed nursing assistants can become medication nursing assistants by completing a program of 30 hours of theoretical content and 30 hours of clinical. Medication nursing assistants are allowed to work with an RN/LPS to administer medication to stable clients. They must have been employed as a nursing assistant for the equivalent of two full time years within the past five years, have two character references from an employer, and pass a written exam. They must still complete 12 hours a year of education to renew as a nursing assistant and four of those must focus on the administration of medication.
New Jersey	Yes	Medication Aide certification – Must be certified in New Jersey as a nurse aide, homemaker/home health aide, or personal care assistant, successfully complete a medication aide training program and pass the Medication Aide Examination
New Mexico	Yes	Certified medication aides administer medications to facility residents under the supervision of a licensed nurse, monitor vital signs, and prepare verbal and written reports related to the administration of medication. They must have first been a certified nursing aide for at least six months, have been recommended by the nurse educator at the participating facility and complete a training program.
New York	Yes	<b>Legislation to be proposed.</b>
North Carolina	Yes	SB 622 (2005) – Initially the use of medication aides was to begin in July 2006, however that has now been pushed back to October 2006. <b>Medication Aides will be allowed in skilled nursing facilities.</b> They must take a Board approved 24 hour class, pass a state competency exam and be a Nurse Aide I. Unlicensed people can administer medication in long-term care facilities.
North Dakota	Yes	Has allowed nursing homes to use medication assistants since 1994. As of 2000, they must first be a certified nurse assistant, complete 40 hours of classroom courses, 8 hours in the lab, and 32 hours of clinical.
Ohio	Pilot	<b>In May 2006, the Board of Nursing (Board) implemented a Certified Medication Aide Pilot Program (Pilot Program).</b> 80 nursing homes and 40 residential care facilities will be involved in the initial training and use of certified medication aides. HB No. 66; 4723.32 – Recognition of Medication Aide: Allows the administration of medication by an individual who holds a valid medication aide certificate, if the medication is administered to a resident of a nursing home or residential care facility.
Oklahoma	Yes	Has established a certification process for medication aide certification for nursing facilities, continuum of care facilities, specialized facilities, residential care homes, adult day care facilities and assisted living centers. The sponsoring facility must provide 24 hour of clinical training. The aide must also take a 24 hour certification course, have been a nurse aide for at least six month and pass a Board written and clinical test. They must also complete 8 hours of continuing education annually.
Oregon	Yes	Nurse Practice Act – 6 ways to obtain Certified Medication Aide certification: 1. Training and competency examination: complete 80 hours of Board-approved medication aide training program; Have 6 months of full time experience within the last two years, and pass the Board-administered medication aide examination. 2. Enrollment in an approved nursing program in any U.S. state or jurisdiction: obtain CNA 1 certification according to these rules; show evidence of satisfactory completion of three terms of nursing school, each of which must have included a clinical nursing component; pass the medication aide examination. Nursing students are exempt from the medication aide training program and having to have six months experience as a nursing assistant. 3. Graduation from an approved nursing education program in the U.S.: obtain CNA 1 certification; pass the medication aide examination; graduate nurses are exempt from the medication aide training program and having to have six months experience as a nursing assistant. 4. Medication Aide training in another state: obtain Oregon CNA 1 certification; submit evidence of successful completion of a medication aide training program e
Pennsylvania	No	Does not appear to have medication aides
Rhode Island	No	Does not appear to have medication aides
South Carolina	Yes	From the South Carolina affiliate: <b>"In our Community Residential Care Facilities (ALFs), medication "provision" is allowed by CNAs trained by RNs to provide the medications. This legislative change was made to the Nurse Practice Act a few years back with the support of the Board of Nursing</b> - that is after much work and determination. They would not agree to the word "administration" but agreed to "provision" which still allows the same end result. Facilities were getting caught between the Board of Nsg who said only RNs could administer meds and DHEC (health licensing) who said these facilities needed to be "like home" and should allow such and was allowing such and never the 2 were happy and our facilities and staff threatened."
South Dakota	Yes	Certified medication aides must complete a state approved medication aide course
Tennessee	No	Does not appear to have medication aides
Texas	Yes	Medication aides may administer medication to residents in nursing facilities, intermediate care and community-based facilities for people who are mentally retarded, correctional institutions and assisted living facilities. They must work in a facility as a certified nurse aide or unlicensed direct care staff person on the first official day of their medication aide training program and have been employed in a facility for 90 days as an unlicensed direct care staff person within the last 12 months. Nurse aides who worked in a Medicare skilled nursing facility or a Medicaid nursing facility are exempt from the 90-day requirement. They must complete 100 hours of classroom instruction and training, 20 hours of returned skills demonstration laboratory and 20 hours of clinical.
Utah	Pilot	HB 137 (2006) – <b>creates a pilot program for medication aides which sunsets in 2010.</b> It states that a certified medication aide is a nurse aide who has at least 2000 hours working as a nurse aide, has received 40 hours of classroom and 20 hours of practical training; can administer routine medicines to patients and residents at long-term care facilities.
Vermont	No	Does not appear to have medication aides
Virginia	Yes	<b>A certification program for medication aides has been established in Spring, 2007.</b> The proposed program includes 68 hours of training and instruction and the medication aide must have successfully completed the direct care staff training required by the Department of Social Services for employment in an assisted living facility or an approved nurse aide education program.
Washington	No	Does not appear to have medication aides.

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State	Allow?	Description of program
West Virginia	Yes	Allows trained, unlicensed workers to administer medication at intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR), personal care homes, residential board and care homes, behavioral health group homes, private residences in which health care services are provided under the supervision of a registered nurse or licensed adult family care homes.
Wisconsin	Yes	Certified medication aides must be and maintain status as a nurse aide, have completed at least 2000 hours of direct patient care within the past three years, worked a minimum of 40 hours, within the last 90 days or by the time the course clinical begins, caring for the same residents they will work with during clinical, be recommended by the director of nursing and the administrator of the agency they will be working at, and be recommended by two licensed charge nurses, one of whom must be a registered nurse. They will have to complete a medication aide course and complete four hours of in-service annually, focusing on medication and medication administration. This is in addition to the 12 annual hours of in service required as a nurse aide.
Wyoming	Considering	<b>There have been bills to create medication aides</b> , but they have not passed and it appears Wyoming does not have medication aides at this time.