



This standard of practice is to support the PSW in providing safe, respectful, and effective personal care to the public population in a dignified and ethical approach. Standards of Practice outline the expectations of the PSW and their responsibility in the delivery of care.

Medications - A drug or other substance used to prevent or treat an illness or disease.

Some forms of medication include pills, capsules, liquid, eye or ear drops, patches, and lotions / ointments. These can also be prescribed and only obtained with a physician's order, or they can be bought as over the counter drugs without a physician's order.

The Personal Support Worker may remind the person(s) it is time to take their medications. They may inquire of the person(s) if they have taken their medications. The PSW may assist the person(s) with medications only when a verbal prompting is required to take the meds. The PSW may hand the medication container to the person(s) only when the medications have been placed in a properly scheduled receptacle by a family member or an RHP. A PSW may never dispense medication out of a prescription bottle directly to a person(s) or into a dosette for future consumption. The PSW should promptly report any noted irregularities such as medications not taken, medications taken too often, or medications being taken at the wrong time to their appropriate supervisor. (Family members, care coordinators, nursing supervisors etc.). The PSW must take responsibility for their act and always follow the policies and procedures of the facility or company that they are working under.

The administration of medications is a delegated act re: Regulated Health Professionals Act. This skill/act of delegation will NOT be transferable to subsequent person(s) as each person(s) and their set of circumstances are unique. Multiple factors will be needed to be taken into consideration when deciding if the act can be done safely by a PSW. The delegating RHP will follow their governing body's standards and guidelines in delegating the act of medication administration.

PSW – Personal Support Worker

RN/RPN – Registered Nurse/ Registered Practical Nurse

RHPA – Regulated Health Professions Act

ADLs – Activities of daily living

Resources - Sheila A. Sorrentino, PhD, RN, Leighann Remmert, MS, RN and Mary J. Wilk, RN, GNC(C), BA, BScN, MN, Mosby's Canadian Textbook for the Support Worker, 3rd Edition