

Home Health Aides and Client Medications



Always follow the Paraprofessional Plan of Care.

- HHAs may remind patients to take prescribed medications. Certain tasks can only be performed if the patient is self-directing.
- Report changes in a patient’s condition, particularly those who take blood thinners.
- Report a patient’s non-compliance with medication regimen.
- Home Health Aides should not administer medications except under “Special Circumstances” –only if the patient meets requirements, the aide has been trained for the specific case, and it is on the plan of care.

Refer to the HHA Scope of Practice for more details and ask your supervisor 212-609-4442 if you have questions.

Who can administer medications?

Caregiver: Any family member/friend who takes care of a patient.

Family Employed Substitute (FES): A privately hired person to take care of patient, not regulated by NYS DOH (privately hired aide)

Consumer Directed Personal Assisted Services (CDPAS): patient’s chosen caregiver under Medicaid program.

Can the HHA Perform This Task?

Crush medications	NO
Add medication to food	NO
Draw up injectable medications	NO
Remind the patient when to take medications	YES*
Properly dispose of needles/syringe used for insulin injections	YES*
Open a medication container	YES*
Remove medication from container	Only if the client is self-directing*
Steady the client’s hand during pouring/measuring	Only if the client is self-directing*
Place/spray/spoon medication into patient’s mouth	Special Circumstances Only*
Administer pre-filled insulin using safety syringe	Special Circumstances Only*

* If it is on the plan of care. Special Circumstances has more requirements.