DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Certification of Medication Attendants
(LAC 48:IX. Chapter 9)

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) adopts LAC 48:IX. Chapter 9, Guidelines for Certification of Medication Attendants (CMA), R.S. 37:1021-1025 authorizes the establishment of “a medication administration course for the purpose of training and certifying unlicensed personnel to administer certain medication to residents of intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (ICFs/MR) and community homes for the mentally retarded either operated by the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) or funded through the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH); and to individuals in programs/ agencies contracting for services with DHH except as prohibited in §911.B.5.”

Based on an opinion given by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the Department of Health and Hospitals has discontinued the use of physician delegation forms in intermediate care facilities and home and community-based settings. Unlicensed personnel must now complete minimum training requirements in order to administer medication to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The termination of physician delegation has resulted in a large influx of individuals seeking CMA training and certification. This has created an administrative burden to providers as well as OCDD to timely process a steadily increasing number of certifications. This is also an unfunded training mandate, which incurs significant costs to provider agencies and requires annual continuing education for re-certification. Due to limited funding, provider agencies who cannot afford to maintain the certification will experience a reduction in unlicensed personnel who are qualified to give medication to clients, thus increasing the risk for medication errors, critical incidents, and mortality for medically compromised and vulnerable clients. The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities seeks to extend the certification period for certified medication attendants to two years, effective February 27, 2015. Provider agencies must determine CMA competency annually during the two-year period.

Also effective February 27, 2015, OCDD will allow CMAs who have not worked directly with medication administration for 12 months or more to be administered the state-wide exam and a competency evaluation rather than requiring that they repeat the training. The opportunity for this will also decrease administrative burden and allow qualified individuals to more quickly re-enter the work force which will in turn, help assure client health and safety. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.
Title 48  
PUBLIC HEALTH—GENERAL  
Part IX. Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Services  
Chapter 9. Guidelines for Certification of Medication Attendants  

§915. Certification Requirements and Process  
A. CMA certificates issued after rule promulgation will expire two years from the last day of the month that the certificate was printed.  

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1021-1025.  
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 21:697 (July 1995), amended LR 23:1147 (September 1997), LR 41:  

§917. Re-Certification Requirements and Process  
A. Bi-annual Requirements. On a bi-annual basis each CMA must be recertified. The requirements for recertification are:  

1. completion of a total of nine hours of in service training. Two of the nine hours must directly relate to the agency’s medication administration policy and procedure. The remaining seven hours on in-service must directly relate to medication administration. A CMA working in multiple agencies may combine training to meet these requirements with the exception that the two hour training on agency medication administration policy and procedure is required for each employer. Each agency must have documentation of each CMA’s required nine hours of in-service training;  

2. pass with proficiency, either by physical or verbal demonstration, the 25 skills on the practical checklist on an annual basis. The annual cycle is based on the last day of the month that the certificate was printed. If a CMA changes employers within the certification period and training records are not available for the first year, the new employer must determine competency by assessing the 25 skills upon hire, in addition to meeting these requirements for recertification.  

B. - C. ...  

D. The re-certification requirements must be met prior to the month of expiration of the CMA’s certification.  

E. A CMA who has not worked directly with medication administration in a facility, program, or agency for the intellectually/developmentally disabled for 12 months or more must take the OCDD CMA state exam again and pass with proficiency the 25 skills checklist. If the CMA does not pass the state exam, then the CMA must repeat the 60 hour course and pass the exam prior to being recertified. Failure to pass the state exam will result in de-certification.  

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1021-1025.  
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 21:697 (July 1995), amended LR 23:1147 (September 1997), LR 41:  

§919. De-certification of Medication Attendants  
A. ...  

B. De-certification may occur under the following conditions:  

1. failure of CMA to obtain recertification requirements. The CMA may be reinstated if the recertification requirements are met within six months of expiration of the certificate. During this six month period the CMA’s authorized functions shall be suspended.  

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1021-1025.  
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 21:697 (July 1995), amended LR 41:  

§925. Provider Responsibility  
A. - A.2. ...  

3. documentation of annual successful completion of the 25 skills checklist and bi-annual completion of continuing education necessary for re-certification of CMA.  

B. The provider is legally responsible for the level of competency of its personnel and for ensuring that unlicensed staff administering medication have successfully completed the medication administration course curriculum. Additionally, the provider is responsible for maintaining recertification requirements of their CMA’s and that their CMA’s perform their functions in a safe manner.  

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1021-1025.  
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 21:699 (July 1995), amended LR 41:  

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and approval is required.  

Interested persons may submit written comments to Mark A. Thomas, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, P.O. Box 3117, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3117. He is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule.  

Kathy H. Kliebert  
Secretary  

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY  

Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of Public Health  

Added Controlled Dangerous Substances  
(LAC 46:LI:2704)  

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health (DHH, OPH), pursuant to the rulemaking authority granted to the secretary of DHH by R.S. 40:962(C) and (H), hereby adopts the following Emergency Rule for the protection of public health, effective January 27, 2015. This Emergency Rule is being promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (R.S. 49:950 et seq.) and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed or until such time as a final Rule is promulgated.  

Based on the criteria, factors, and guidance set forth in R.S. 40:962(C) and 40:963, the secretary, under this rulemaking, has determined that the below listed substances have a high potential for abuse and should be scheduled as controlled dangerous substances to avoid an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare. In reaching the decision to designate the below listed substances as controlled dangerous substances under schedule I, the