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**OPINION:** CNA ASSISTANCE WITH SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS  
**APPROVED DATE:** April 9, 2014  
**REVIEWED DATE:**  
**REVISED DATE:** July 2016  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:**  
Practice & Education Committee

An advisory opinion adopted by WSBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of WSBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and/or decrease risk.

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of \_\_\_APRN \_\_\_RN \_\_\_LPN \_X\_CNA

**ADVISORY OPINION**  
**CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) ASSISTANCE WITH SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS**

In accordance with Wyo. Stat. §33-21-122(c)(iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion CNA Assistance with Self-Administration of Medications.

The CNA, including the Home Health Aide, is limited to “assistance with medications that are ordinarily self-administered and that do not require the skills of a licensed nurse to be provided safely and effectively” as outlined in the §42 CFR 409.45(b)(1)(iii).

After delegation by a licensed nursing professional to a CNA or Home Health Aide, the CNA or Home Health Aide **may** assist the client with self-administered medications following the criteria listed below:

- Reminding the client to take medications;
- Removing medication container from storage;
- Assisting with removal of a cap;
- Assisting with the removal of a medication from a container for clients with a disability (i.e., arthritis) which prevents independence in this act; and
- Observing the client take the medication
- Can open and pour premixed unit dose medication into a nebulizer cup when the patient is physically unable to do so
- Assist in putting over the counter eye drops in the patient’s eyes
- Assist in applying topical ointments to intact skin
- Assist with inserting a rectal suppository

- Prescription medications shall be dispensed from a licensed pharmacist, labeled with the following:
  - Names, address and phone number of the pharmacy
  - Name of client
  - Name and strength of drug
  - Directions for use
  - Date filled
  - Expiration date
  - Prescription number
  - Name of physician
  - Controlled substances shall have a warning label on the bottle

The CNA or Home Health Aide **may not** assist the client with self-administered medications following the criteria listed below:

- Prefilling insulin syringes
- Crushing medications or mixing it with food products
- The RN maintains accountability and responsibility for supervision and management of all medication administration.

This advisory opinion does not apply to the role of Medication Aide–Certified (MA-C).