

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Community Homes for Individuals with Mental Retardation
(55 Pa.Code Chapter 6400)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – April 2015

The clarifications and interpretations below will remain on the Department's web site until the information is included in the next updated Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG).

Regulation: § 6400.77(b) – First Aid Kit

§ 6400.77(b) - A first aid kit shall contain antiseptic, an assortment of adhesive bandages, sterile gauze pads, a thermometer, tweezers, tape, scissors and syrup of Ipecac, if an individual 4 years of age or younger, or an individual likely to ingest poisons, is served.

Question: Does the August 9, 2004 letter from former Deputy Secretary Kevin T. Casey still stand regarding the dismissal of syrup of epicac from the first aid kit contents?

ANSWER: Yes. The letter sent to community home and family living home providers from former Deputy Secretary Kevin T. Casey dated August 9, 2004 is still in effect. Syrup of epicac does not need to be included in the list of items required in a home's first aid kit.

Regulation: § 6400.141(b) – Individual Physical Examination

§ 6400.141(b) - The physical examination shall be completed, signed and dated by a licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner or licensed physician's assistant.

Question: Is it permissible to leave blanks on an individual's physical examination form?

ANSWER: It is not acceptable to leave blanks on an individual's physical examination form. Each medical information item listed on the physical examination form is information that is pertinent to providing the care and services necessary for each individual. If the medical information item is indeed "not applicable (NA)" or there is "none," then the medical professional filling out the form must denote that on the form. The home

shall ensure medical professionals do not leave any blanks when completing individual physical examination forms.

The application of this interpretation will begin 6 months from the date of this clarification – November 1, 2015.

Regulation: § 6400.151(c)(2) – Staff Physical Examination

§ 6400.151(c) - The physical examination shall include:

(2) Tuberculin skin testing by Mantoux method with negative results every 2 years; or, if tuberculin skin test is positive, an initial chest x-ray with results noted. Tuberculin skin testing may be completed and certified in writing by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse instead of a licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant or certified nurse practitioner.

Question: Can the T-Spot test be used for tuberculosis skin testing instead of the Mantoux method?

ANSWER: Yes. The T-Spot test is a blood test used for tuberculosis skin testing. It is FDA-approved and can be performed in one visit to a physician's office.