

## MEDICATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM VARIANCE REQUEST

The Department will consider one type of variance request for the medication distribution system rule:

16.03.22.310 "REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICATIONS.

*.01. Medication Distribution System. Each facility must use medi-sets or blister packs for **prescription medications**. The facility may use multi-dose medication distribution systems that are provided for resident's receiving medications from the Veterans Administration or Railroad benefits. The medications system must be filled by a pharmacist and appropriately labeled in accordance with pharmacy standards and physician or authorized provider instructions...."*

I. Variance requests for individual resident prescription medications.

\_\_\_ Variance request is for 16.03.22.310.01

\_\_\_ Includes assurance "resident's health and safety will not be jeopardized"

\_\_\_ Facility Policy for Bulk Medications

\_\_\_ Assurance staffs have been trained

\_\_\_ States "reasons that show good cause" why the resident cannot receive medications from their pharmacy bubble packed

\_\_\_ States "reasons that show good cause" why is the facility nurse unable to place medications in a bubble pack or medi-set for unlicensed staff.

### NOTES:

Individual residents receiving medications from the Veteran Administration or railroad benefits do not require a variance of bulk medications, as an allowance was made in the rules.

Liquids, creams, eye drops and powders are not required to be packaged in a blister pack or medi-set, and therefore do not require a variance.

All medication containers must be appropriately labeled with the individual resident's name and in accordance with pharmacy standards.

House supplies of prescription and OTC medications are not allowed.

Regulations apply only to the "Distribution System." If medications are received from the pharmacy in bulk, but then placed into medi-sets or blister packs by the nurse, no variance is required.