The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

Drug Control Program

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**MAP Advisory**

From: Department of Public Health, Medication Administration Program (MAP)

To: MAP Administrators and Coordinators

Date: June 15, 2021

Subject: Rescue Inhalers, Epinephrine Auto-Injectors and Oxygen in Community Programs

COVID-19 continues to produce an extraordinary demand on the Commonwealth's healthcare system. In light of a continuing shortage of both nursing and Medication Administration (MAP) Certified staff available to administer medications in MAP Community Programs, it has been challenging for MAP Community Programs to meet the needs of individuals whose health conditions require immediate administration of rescue inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors or oxygen for treatment of acute symptoms.

Pursuant to an Order issued by the Commissioner of Public Health, issued June 14, 2021, The Department of Public Health’s Drug Control Program is providing a 90-day extension to the authorization for non-MAP Certified staff of Community Programs to possess and administer rescue inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors and oxygen to individuals in Community Programs under the following conditions:

* Medications subject to this guidance may only be administered pursuant to an existing patient prescription and matching health care provider order.
  + If an individual is receiving the medication pursuant to an initial prescription and order, the medication must be administered by licensed or MAP Certified staff.
* Prior to receiving access to, taking custody of, or administering any of the medications authorized by this order, participating staff must receive training from a licensed nurse regarding, but not limited to, the following:
  + storage, handling, administration and disposal of the medication(s);
  + emergency protocols; and
  + the individual’s specific needs.
* Any rescue inhaler, epinephrine auto-injector or oxygen which is to be administered pursuant to this order shall be kept in a secure storage area, separate from the Community Program’s MAP Drug Storage area.
* Administration of these medications by participating staff, pursuant to the accompanying order, must be documented separately from the Community Program’s Medication Administration Record, including, but not limited to, the following:
  + The name of the medication;
  + The participating staff administering;
  + The individual to whom the medication is administered;
  + The date and time of administration;
  + The dose administered; and
  + Any emergency procedures required after administration.
* Documentation must be kept confidential and be available upon clinical review by the service provider, DDS, DMH or DCF MAP coordinator and/or Drug Control Program.

Authorizations under this advisory will be effective until September 15, 2021. All applicable statutes, regulations and MAP advisories not inconsistent with this advisory and the Commissioner’s Order remain in effect.

Please direct any questions or comments about this advisory to MAP at [DCP.DPH@state.ma.us](mailto:DCP.DPH@state.ma.us).