

# Safeguards

MAP policies have established a set of safeguards to ensure safe medication administration in community programs.

These include:

- ◆ formalized curricula and training
- ◆ standardized testing by a third party
- ◆ staff certification and recertification
- ◆ licensed, professional consultants available 24 hours a day
- ◆ program site registration
- ◆ written policies and protocols
- ◆ medication occurrence/error reporting system
- ◆ routine inspections and surveys
- ◆ clinical review and evaluation
- ◆ advisory groups

## Resources

If you would like more information about the Medication Administration Program, please contact:

**Department of Public Health**  
**617-973-0800**

**Department of Mental Health**  
**508-616-2161**

**Department of  
Developmental Services**  
**617-624-7792**

**MassAbility**  
**617-204-3674**

**Department of Children and Families**  
**617-748-2073**

# MAP

## The Medication Administration Program

*An Introduction*



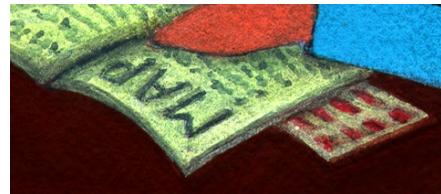
Offered by the Massachusetts Departments of Public Health, Mental Health, Children and Families, Developmental Services, and MassAbility

# What is MAP?

Administration of medication is one of a number of services provided to people in community programs. To ensure that medications are administered safely in community programs, the Departments of Public Health, Mental Health and Developmental Services established the Medication Administration Program (MAP) through joint regulations in 1993. In 2013, the regulations were amended to include the Department of Children and Families and in 2020 to include MassAbility.

The regulations established standards and safeguards to protect the well-being of people living in community programs who need assistance with administration of their medications. The standards include, among other safeguards, a training and certification program for medication administration by program staff.

# Objectives of MAP



The overall goal of MAP is to ensure that there are appropriate policies and procedures in place for safe medication administration. This helps people receive their medication while living in the community and carrying on their day to day activities. The Program makes it possible for direct care staff, who are familiar with the specific needs of each individual, to administer medication as a normal part of the person's daily routine.

MAP is implemented through uniform, statewide standards that undergo continuous evaluation and improvement. The Program has benefited from the experience and involvement of the individuals served, their families, service providers and professional organizations.

# The Scope of MAP

Today, MAP is part of over 4000 community programs throughout the Commonwealth serving people who cannot safely take medications by themselves. Medications are obtained directly from pharmacies and administered as directed by the health care provider. Special rules enable individuals to receive their medications from family members while away from the community program. Licensed professionals are available 24 hours a day to help direct care staff with medication administration issues.

Staff of the five Departments visit or otherwise work with community program sites to ensure that the regulations are followed. Departmental staff are also available at the regional and state level to provide oversight and consultation. In addition, MAP has a statewide system for the reporting of medication occurrences/errors in community programs.