

# Health-related support

Children and adults with developmental disabilities have access to a range of services to support health-related needs.

You can use a combination of the services available to you through waiver enrollment, local programs and the Ohio Medicaid State Plan to meet your needs.

As your needs change, different services may become available to you. Talk with your county board of developmental disabilities as your needs change or when you review your individual service plan each year with county board of developmental disabilities staff.

## How Can My DSP Meet My Health-Related Needs?

Many health-related needs can be met by a direct service provider or DSP who has completed additional training for medication administration, including DSPs that provide Homemaker/Personal Care services.

Medication Administration training and certification developed by the department can support DSPs to perform a variety of tasks for people with a variety of medical conditions. [See Medication Administration tables.](#)

DSPs are required to maintain documentation for all of the services they provide. Documentation of health-related tasks may include the date and time the task was completed and the person's response.

No certification is necessary for these tasks, only training approved by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

<b>With Training approved by DODD</b>	
<b>DSPs can</b>	<b>About training</b>
<p>Use a vagal nerve stimulator or VNS to help someone having a seizure</p> <p>Use an epinephrine auto-injector or epi-pen to help someone having an allergic reaction</p> <p>Apply over-the-counter topical shampoos, lip balm, sunscreen, or other topical medication that is used for cleaning, comfort, or skin protection</p>	<p>A licensed nurse or other person with Medication Administration Certification, Category 1 may provide training, using curriculum approved by DODD, so that DSPs administer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a Vagal nerve stimulator</li> <li>- an Epi-pen</li> <li>- over-the-counter topical medication that is used for cleaning, comfort, or skin protection</li> </ul> <p>The training requires that the DSP demonstrate the ability to perform the task correctly.</p> <p>DSPs who have been trained to use an epi-pen through other certification classes like a first-aid course through the American Red Cross, are not required to complete additional training.</p> <p>There is no additional certification required. Once training is complete, DSPs may perform these tasks and administer these medications.</p> <p><i>Available training</i></p> <p>Epi-pen and Over the Counter Topical Medication training can be found <a href="#">on the department's website</a> with Medication Administration information.</p> <p>VNS training is available online at <a href="http://MyLearning.dodd.ohio.gov">MyLearning.dodd.ohio.gov</a>.</p>

Table 1

Three categories of Medication Administration certification are available to providers.

<b>Medication Administration Certification – Category 1</b>	
Prescribed medication administered by mouth or through contact with the skin and other health-related activities	
<b>DSPs can</b>	<b>About training</b>
<p>Give prescribed medications including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRN or “as needed” medications that include clear guidelines for administration</li> <li>• Controlled substances used for seizures or other disorders</li> <li>• Oxygen</li> </ul> <p>That are given</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orally, placed in the eye, ear, or nose, applied to the skin, or given vaginally or rectally</li> <li>• Through inhalers or nebulizers</li> </ul> <p>Give over-the-counter topical medications for muscle pain like Bengay or Aspercreme</p> <p>This certification also allows DSPs to perform other health-related activities, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check vital signs including pulse, temperature, respirations, blood pressure</li> <li>• Apply clean dressings, percussion vests or compression hose</li> </ul>	<p>The 14 hour Medication Administration, Category 1 training, taught by an RN certified by the department to provide this training</p> <p>This certification is renewed every year and requires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 2 hours of continuing education credit each year and</li> <li>• Demonstration that the direct support provider can safely perform these tasks</li> </ul> <p>Verification by an RN certified by the department that the direct support provider meets all of the requirements needed to maintain their certification</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure the intake of food and fluids and the output of urine/bowel movements</li> <li>• Complete oral suctioning, that is using a suction catheter to remove secretions from the mouth</li> <li>• Use a glucometer to check blood sugar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform external catheter care, empty urine and colostomy bags</li> <li>• Monitor oxygen levels using pulse oximeter</li> <li>• Use CPAP, BiPAP</li> <li>• Use a cough assist insufflator</li> </ul>

Table 2

**Medication Administration Certification – Category 2**

Nutrition and medication administered through a gastrostomy or jejunostomy tubes (G or J tube)

<b>DSPs can</b>	<b>About training</b>
<p>With nursing delegation a DSP can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administer tube feedings and fluids</li><li>• Administer medication through the tube</li></ul> <p>Nursing delegation is when a nurse delegates or assigns responsibility for performing a nursing task to a DSP. When doing so, the nurse teaches the DSP what to do and makes sure the DSP performs that task correctly.</p>	<p>Requires Medication Administration, Category 1 certification plus the 4 hour Category 2 training, taught by an RN certified by the department</p> <p>Certification is renewed every year and requires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Renewal of Category 1 certification</li><li>• At least 1 additional hour of continuing education and</li><li>• Demonstration that the DSP can safely perform the tasks</li><li>• Verification by an RN certified by the department that the direct support provider meets all of the requirements needed to maintain their certification</li></ul>

Table 3

<b>Medication Administration Certification – Category 3,</b>	
Medication administered through an injection, specific to insulin or other treatments for metabolic glyceic disorders	
<b>DSPs can</b>	<b>About training</b>
Administer insulin injections with nursing delegation	<p>Requires Medication Administration, Category 1 certification plus the 4 hour Category 2 training, taught by an RN certified by the department</p> <p>Certification is renewed every year and requires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewal of Category 1 certification</li> <li>• At least 1 additional hour of continuing education and</li> <li>• Demonstration that the direct support professional can safely perform the tasks</li> <li>• Verification by an RN certified by the department that the direct support provider meets all of the requirements needed to maintain their certification</li> </ul>

Table 4

## Additional Health-Related Services

### Nursing Delegation

The Ohio Board of Nursing allows Registered Nurses (RNs) or Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) working under an RN's supervision to train unlicensed personnel, including Homemaker/Personal Care or other direct support providers, to perform nursing tasks. This is called nursing delegation and it is outlined in [OAC 4723-13](#).

The delegating nurse must

- verify that the DSP has successfully completed any required training
- observe the DSP successfully completing the delegated task

There is no defined list of what tasks may be delegated. Whether or not a nurse can delegate responsibility for a task depends on:

- the nurse's scope of practice, knowledge, skills and abilities,
- The knowledge, skills, and abilities of the direct support professional, and
- the characteristics of the task.

People enrolled in the Level One, SELF, and Individual Options (IO) Waivers may use their waivers to pay for nursing delegation services.

Waiver Nursing Delegation can be combined with other services, such as Homemaker/Personal Care and adult day services.

The cost of the Waiver Nursing Delegation service does not come out of the person's waiver budget.

## Direct Nursing Services

When specific tasks needed by a person cannot be performed by a DSP, even with the appropriate training, certification, and/or nursing delegation, as required by rule, LPN or RN services may be authorized.

These nursing services may be available through the Ohio Medicaid State Plan using your Ohio Medicaid card or through waiver services.

## State Plan Home Health Nursing

Available through the Ohio Medicaid State Plan using your Ohio Medicaid card, this service can only be provided by Medicare-certified home health agencies.

This service is for people with nursing needs that can be met in shifts that are four hours long or less, defined by Medicaid as intermittent services.

This service is not authorized by the county board of developmental disabilities.

Usually, people can receive up to 14 hours per week of this service.

- Children under the age of 21 can receive more than 14 hours per week, when needed.
- Prior authorization may be submitted to ask for additional hours in a week for adults over the age of 21, if needed. Prior authorization requests are submitted by the home health agency providing services.

A service and support administrator from a county board of developmental disabilities can help with finding a home health agency.

When a home health agency agrees to provide state plan home health nursing for someone enrolled in the Level One, SELF, or Individual Options (IO) Waivers, the nursing services must be included in the person's individual service plan.

It is possible for people to receive Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC) or other services through the waiver and to also receive state plan home health nursing, when needed

## Private Duty Nursing (PDN)

This service is available through the Ohio Medicaid State Plan using your Ohio Medicaid card.

This service is for people with nursing needs that can be met only in shifts that are longer than 4 hours (continuous).

It can be provided by independent providers or Medicare-certified or otherwise accredited home health agencies.

This service requires prior authorization. The prior authorization is submitted by the home health agency. For people enrolled in managed care, the request is reviewed by the managed care plan.

- For people not enrolled in a waiver or in managed care, the request is reviewed by the Ohio Department of Medicaid.
- For people not enrolled in managed care and enrolled in the Level One, SELF, or IO Waivers, requests for PDN are reviewed by DODD.

Staff of your county board of developmental disabilities must meet with you face-to-face to review your physician's orders, nursing notes, medication records, etc. in order to complete a form called the Nursing Task Assessment or NTA.

The NTA lists medications and tasks ordered by your physicians or primary care providers, how those needs are met now, and what other types of service providers may be authorized to address any unmet needs.

- It is important for the person requesting nursing or their family or guardian to review the information completed/gathered by the county board of developmental disabilities to make sure it is thorough and accurate.
- The county board will submit the NTA, current physician's orders, medication and treatment documentation for three months, and any other relevant documents to DODD.
- DODD will review the information to see which of the health-related supports can be performed by a DSP.
- Nursing will generally not be considered for tasks on the NTA listed as "Classification 2" except when the person receiving the service has unique or extenuating circumstances that make performing a particular health-related task more difficult or more dangerous to them than for most people.



If a person or their family or guardian disagrees with the department's decision not to authorize nursing services, they can talk with a nurse on staff with the department to share additional information.

PDN can only be authorized when it is determined that only an LPN or RN may perform a task, requiring shifts longer than four hours.

### Individual Options Waiver Nursing

This service is available only through the Individual Options (IO) Waiver. It can be provided by independent providers and agencies certified by DODD.

This service requires prior authorization by DODD, using the same process described for PDN.

This service is only authorized for people who require a nurse when state plan home health nursing or PDN is not available.