

Health-Related Support

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

You can use a combination of the services available 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 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 who provide Homemaker/Personal Care services.

Medication Administration training and certification developed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, or DODD, 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.

September 2018

No certification is necessary for these tasks, only training approved by DODD.

With Training Approved by DODD	
DSPs can	About training
<p>Use a vagal nerve stimulator, or VNS, to help someone having a seizure</p> <p>Use an epinephrine auto-injector, or EpiPen, 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"> - a vagal nerve stimulator, - an EpiPen, - or over-the-counter topical medication that is used for cleaning, comfort, or skin protection. <p>The training requires the DSP demonstrates the ability to perform the task correctly.</p> <p>DSPs who have been trained to use an EpiPen 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>EpiPen and Over the Counter (OTC) Topical Medication training can be found on the department's website with Medication Administration information.</p> <p>VNS training is available online at MyLearning.dodd.ohio.gov.</p>

Table 1

Three categories of Medication Administration certification are available to providers.

Medication Administration Certification – Category 1	
Prescribed medication administered by mouth or through contact with the skin and other health-related activities	
DSPs can	About training
<p>Give prescribed medications, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRN or “as needed” medications that include clear guidelines for administration, • controlled substances used for seizures or other disorders, • and oxygen. <p>Give prescribed medications that are given</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • orally, placed in the eye, ear, or nose, applied to the skin, or given vaginally or rectally; • or through inhalers or nebulizers. <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"> • checking vital signs, including pulse, temperature, respirations, and blood pressure; • applying clean dressings, percussion vests, or compression hose; • measuring the intake of food and fluids and the output of urine/bowel movements; • and completing oral suctioning that uses a suction catheter to remove secretions from the mouth; • using a glucometer to check blood sugar; 	<p>14-hour Medication Administration Category 1 training is 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"> • at least two hours of continuing education credit each year, • demonstration that the DSP can safely perform these tasks, • and verification by an RN certified by DODD that the DSP meets all of the requirements needed to maintain their certification.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • performing external catheter care, empty urine and colostomy bags; • monitoring oxygen levels using pulse oximeter; • using CPAP, BiPAP; • and using a cough assist insufflator.

Table 2

Medication Administration Certification – Category 2

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

DSPs can	About training
<p>With nursing delegation a DSP can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• administer tube feedings and fluids,• and administer medication through the tube. <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 and the four-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">• renewal of Category 1 certification,• at least one additional hour of continuing education,• demonstration that the DSP can safely perform the tasks,• and verification by an RN certified by DODD that the DSP meets all of the requirements needed to maintain their certification.

Table 3

Medication Administration Certification – Category 3

Medication administered through an injection, specific to insulin or other treatments for metabolic glyceimic disorders

DSPs can	About training
Administer insulin injections with nursing delegation	<p>Requires Medication Administration Category 1 certification and the four-hour Category 3 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">• renewal of Category 1 certification ,• at least one additional hour of continuing education,• demonstration that the DSP can safely perform the tasks,• and verification by an RN certified by the department that the DSP meets all of the requirements needed to maintain their certification.

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 the DSP has successfully completed any required training,
- and observe the DSP successfully completing the delegated task.

There is no defined list of what tasks may be delegated. Whether 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, Individual Options (IO), or Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver (SELF) 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, or nursing delegation as required by rule, LPN or RN services may be authorized.

Direct 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, the State Plan Home Health Nursing 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 county boards of developmental disabilities.

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

- Children younger than 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 older than 21, if needed. Prior authorization requests are submitted by the home health agency providing services.

A service and support administrator from a county board 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, Individual Options (IO), or Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver (SELF) waivers, the nursing services must be included in the person's individual service plan, or ISP.

It is possible for people to receive Homemaker/Personal Care or other services through the waiver and to also receive State Plan Home Health Nursing, when needed.

Private Duty Nursing

Private Duty Nursing, or PDN, 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, Individual Options (IO), and Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver (SELF) 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 and gathered by the county board of 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 DODD’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.

Individual Options Waiver Nursing requires prior authorization by DODD, using the same process described for Private Duty Nursing.

This service is only authorized for people who require a nurse when State Plan Home Health Nursing or Private Duty Nursing is not available.