



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

44 HOLLAND AVENUE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12229-0001
(518) 473-1997 • TDD (518) 474-3694
www.omr.state.ny.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: DDSO Directors
Chief Operating Officer, Voluntary Agencies
DDSO Nursing Program Coordinators
Directors of Nursing, Voluntary Agencies

FROM: Gary R. Lind, Deputy Commissioner
Policy and Enterprise Solutions

DATE: January 17, 2008

SUBJECT: Training of Unlicensed Individuals in the Injection of Glucagon in Emergency Situations

This memorandum is to provide you with important information concerning the ability of registered professional nurses (RNs) to train direct care staff employed in programs operated and/or certified by the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) to inject glucagon in emergency circumstances to individuals with developmental disabilities diagnosed with diabetes. Glucagon is used to raise very low blood sugar.

The administration of glucagon can be life-saving. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the New York State Board of Nursing (NYSBN) have determined that training direct care staff to administer glucagon in an emergency is permissible under State Education Law §6908(1)(a)(iv) and §6908(1)(b). Therefore, it is permissible to allow direct care staff to administer glucagon. NYSED and NYSBN opinion was reached after careful consideration of technical information including statistical analyses that showed no cases of mortality related to the use of glucagon injections.

Recognizing the benefit of having persons trained to administer glucagon to persons with developmental disabilities who are diagnosed with diabetes and are at risk for very low blood sugar levels, the following conditions apply:

1. The RN has the sole responsibility of determining if it is appropriate to delegate the administration of glucagon and which direct care staff will be allowed to administered glucagon. When making a decision regarding this task the RN shall assess:
 - a. the condition/stability of the consumer
 - b. the skill and experience of the staff
2. The glucagon is prescribed by a licensed prescriber.
3. The person providing the training is an RN who is competent to do the training.
4. Direct care staff receive appropriate supervision by an RN.
5. Direct care staff are separately certified to administer glucagon and are recertified on no less than an annual basis.
6. Direct care staff trained to administer glucagon do so **only** in **emergency situations where an appropriately licensed person is not available.**

The use of the glucagon injection kit identified in American Diabetes Association literature is regarded as a best practice standard.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Kathleen Keating, RN, MSN by e-mail at Kathleen.Keating@omr.state.ny.us or by phone at (518) 474-3558.

- c D. Jones
- M. Chumra
- S. Smit
- K. Broderick
- K. Keating
- M. Rice
- F. Wetzel
- R. Jung