



STATE OF MARYLAND

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

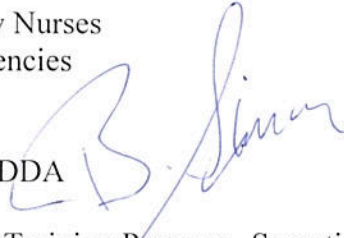
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Bernard Simons, Executive Director

TO: Developmental Disability Community Nurses  
Executive Leadership of Provider Agencies  
Office of Health Care Quality

FROM: Bernard Simons, Executive Director, DDA 

RE: Change in the Medication Technician Training Program- Somatic Prescription  
Renewal

DATE: July 16, 2014

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The Medication Technician Training Program (MTTP) has been updated. Previously, the MTTP required renewal for all medication prescriptions after 90 days. This standard applied to both somatic medications (e.g. medications used to treat bodily ailments such as diabetes and high blood pressure) and behavior-modifying medications (e.g. psychotropic medications typically prescribed for behavioral health diagnoses). The required renewal of prescriptions after 90 days for somatic medications is no longer in effect. The MTTP now stipulates that orders and refills for somatic medication prescriptions may be authorized for up to one year, at the Health Care Provider's (HCP) discretion:

Orders are in effect for the duration of time for which the HCP writes or for the number of refills the HCP prescribes, but the duration of the orders in total may not exceed 1 year without a renewal of orders by the HCP.

The MTTP standard for somatic medication has been changed for three reasons:

- 1) To reduce the burden of requesting somatic prescription renewals every 90 days;
- 2) To be consistent with the community standard of practice, which allows an HCP to write a prescription based on the treatment needs of the person; and
- 3) To better reflect COMAR 10.22.04.02 (A), which states that individuals receiving DDA services shall "(1) Receiv[e] health care services that respond to the individual's needs and are consistent with those of the general population."

The change is consistent with pharmacy practice, has been vetted with the Maryland Board of Nursing, and is effective immediately.

Ninety day reviews for all behavior-modifying medications are still required per COMAR 10.22.10.07 (C): “A licensed health care practitioner shall review any medication that has been prescribed to modify behavior at a minimum of every 90 days.”

If you have questions regarding this memorandum, please contact your Regional Nurse.

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