

Support SB1779 (D. Turner / Costa Howard)

Illinois saw the Medication Aide Pilot Program expire on June 30, 2019. This pilot program was developed in order to afford licensed nursing professionals (RNs and LPNs) more time to provide critical resident care, while also heightening job satisfaction levels for nurses and offering a potential career path for CNAs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exasperated the workforce shortage within long-term care. Allowing medication aides to operate within facilities would not only increase efficiencies throughout a facility but encourage those currently working in long-term care to remain in the profession to take care of Illinois' most vulnerable.

38 other states utilize medication aides as an integral part of their long-term care workforce.

A certified medication aide (CMA) is a professional with certified nursing assistant qualifications and an additional certificate that lets them dispense medication to patients. Certified medication aides receive supervision from a Registered Nurse (RN) while on the job, assisting health care staff with following up on patient medications and dosing. A medication aide tracks prescription and non-prescription drugs that they administer to patients. Accurately documenting dosage times and amounts, as well as ensuring that patients swallow their medication, are primary duties of a CMA job.

Facilities who are approved for the use of Medication Aides must;

- Be licensed in good standing as skilled nursing facility by DPH
- Have an overall five-star quality rating of 3,4, or 5 from the most recent data available on the CMS website
- Certify that an employment of a licensed medication aide will not replace the employments of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse
- Certify that a registered nurse will be on-duty and present in the facility to delegate and supervise the medication administration by a licensed medication aide
- Certify that only licensed medication aides will be employed in the capacity of administering medication.
- Must report patient safety, efficiency, and errors as determined by the Department

Education to become a Certified Medication Aide

- Must provide proof of 2,000 hours of practice as a certified nursing assistant within 3 years before application for licensure
- The program must have 60 hrs. of classroom-based medication aide education, a minimum of 10 hours of simulation laboratory study, and a minimum of 30 hrs. of registered nurse-supervised clinical practicum with progressive responsibility of patient medication assistance.
- Must complete the Medication Aide Certification Examination or other examination authorized by DPH. The MACE is a national medication aide certification exam typically administered to nurse aides who choose to receive additional training to become certified medication aides

Support the workforce in Skilled Nursing Facilities by voting yes to SB1779