



Medication Use

Policy:

Bergen's Promise does not prescribe, dispense, administer, or store medication as part of the services it provides to children and families. Any prescribed medication brought into the Agency's office suite or vehicles by a youth or family member must remain secured and in the possession of the youth (18 years or older) or the guardian at all times. Non-prescribed medications may not be brought into the program. Care Management services include linkage and referral to services, which may include medical or psychiatric providers who may prescribe medication. Bergen's Promise has procedures for medication training and education.

Procedure for Medication Training:

All direct service personnel and youth and families will receive training/education regarding medications which includes:

- How the medication works, including intended benefits and potential risks or side effects/contraindications (including Heat and Sun Risks)
- The importance of taking medications as prescribed, including, when applicable, the identification of potential obstacles to adherence, as well as health risks of non-adherence
- Potential implications between medications and wellness management
- The importance of regular medical check-ups including a review of medication efficacy
- Risks associated with pregnancy
- Potential drug reactions when combining prescription and nonprescription medications, including alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, illegal drugs, and alternative medications
- The availability of financial supports and resources to assist youth and families with handling the costs associated with medications
- Whom to go to with questions and concerns (physician, pharmacist, etc.)

1. Staff Training

All direct service personnel (Care Managers and Behavioral Health Home staff) are trained in commonly prescribed medications in accordance with the standards listed above. This training will be provided at hire through Relias E-Learning and annually thereafter. In addition, medication training resources are available to staff via supervision, collateral contact with prescribing physicians, as well as the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) website.

2. Youth and Family Education

At the time of the initial meeting, youth and families complete a “Medical Needs Information” form inclusive of the current regimen of prescribed and Over-The-Counter (OTC) medication which is documented in the youth’s electronic health record (EHR).

All youth and families are offered medication fact sheets for each prescribed and OTC medication via the FDA website (www.fda.gov) which includes information in accordance with the standards listed above. For those families who do not have access to the FDA website, hard copies of the Fact Sheets will be made available. Youth and families will be encouraged to seek out their prescribing physician(s) or pharmacist if they have any questions about the medication regimen.

The staffs’ efforts to provide these resources to the families are documented in the youth’s EHR as it occurs. Youth and families have the right to decline medication education resources and/or medication fact sheets. Medication education resource declination will be documented in the youth’s EHR.