

## PROVIDER ALERT FAQs

**Alert #:** PA 2012-04  
**Issued:** April 10, 2012  
**To:** Residential Care Homes – Executive Directors  
**Subject:** Frequently Asked Questions for PA 2012-04 - Medication Administration and Supervision Training to Support Recovery (MASTR)

### **Am I required to participate in the MASTSR training program?**

Each RCH is required to identify the staff they will send to the MASTSR training program. For example, if your RCH will use staff to assist with medication administration with residents, then it is required that your RCH will have medication administration certified staff on each shift before the end of CY 2012.

*Public Act 09-05, September Special Session (PA 09-5, SSS) made statutory changes to DPH medication administration provisions and DSS rate setting for RCHs. Section 44 of PA 09-5, SSS, provides that DPH: 1) establish criteria to be used by RCHs to determine the appropriate number of personnel to obtain medication administration certification; 2) require that RCHs designate unlicensed personnel to obtain certification for medication administration and to ensure that such staff are trained and certified; and 3) establish training requirements for initial and on-going certification.*

### **What is MASTSR training program?**

This skills based training is a high quality free training that meets the regulations for medically unlicensed persons to administer medications. It provides didactic instruction and certification for RCH non-medical personnel to safely administer medications that are requested by the resident, supervise residents who are able to self-administer their own medications, or provide assistance to residents who administer their own medications by opening containers or packages and replacing lids. This training program pertains to the administration of oral, topical, and inhalant medication. A licensed registered nurse provides the training.

### **How long is the training course?**

The course is a total of thirty-two (32) hours. It consists of twenty-four (24) classroom hours (up to 4 hours of which may be offered via interactive webinar (at discretion of ValueOptions) and eight (8) hours of practicum work (hands on demonstration of skills; 4 hours classroom practicum and 4 hours practicum at the facility site). From start to finish, a course takes approximately six (6) weeks to complete, as participants attend trainings only one day per week, over a six week period. These trainings will begin March 6, 2012 and continue throughout CY 2012.

### **How many training programs will there be and where will they be held?**

This will depend on the number of staff who register for training. There is a maximum of 30 attendees and a minimum of 15 attendees required in order to provide training. The majority of the trainings will be held at a central location (CT BHP in Rocky Hill). There may be several trainings that will be held at a different site but that has not yet been determined. Four (4) hours of the practicum portion of training will be held on-site at your own facility, and four (4) hours of training *may* be offered by interactive webinar, which would be available from any computer with internet access.

### **What if I start a training program, then need to drop out and wish to register for a future training program?**

It is important to commit to the training schedule once you register for training. Once you start a training program, you need to complete the program within the scheduled time frame. If you need to drop-out for any reason and wish to register for a future program, you will need to start over from the beginning.

### **Can I begin to assist with medication administration to RCH residents after I complete the MASTSR course?**

If you are an RCH employee 18 years old or up (and do not already hold a valid current medication certification), who successfully completes all components of the training, you may begin assisting with medication administration after:

- You pass a written examination with at least an 85% score, and
- You pass the practicum examination (skills return-demonstrations) with a 100% score, and

- You receive a MASTSR Medication Administration Certificate

A Medication Administration Certificate is valid for three (3) years.

**Who will do the recertification trainings once the 32 hour certification expires?**

RCHs will be notified of the recertification process in a timely manner prior to the expiration of the 3 year certification.

**Will I be reimbursed for attending the training?**

The RCH will be reimbursed for the employee's hourly wage, fringe benefits, and travel costs per employee attending the MASTSR program. Reimbursement is limited to 34 hours per employee (28 hours for training and 6 hours for travel) multiplied by the sum of the employee's hourly wage inclusive of fringe benefit costs at 15% of the hourly wage. Travel costs will be reimbursed at \$0.50 per mile for miles traveled that exceed the employee's normal commute. Mileage is calculated based on the mileage from the employee's home to the training location, less the employee's normal commuting miles (employee's home to the RCH) using Google maps or MapQuest. The DSS will provide the RCH with the required reimbursement request form.

**Will I be given a lunch break and for how long?**

A lunch break will be given from 12 – 1 p.m. There is a cafeteria on-site at CT BHP or there are places nearby to have lunch on your own.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the CT BHP Call Center at 1-877-552-8247. Thank you.

Provider Relations  
CT Behavioral Health Partnership