

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Community Residential Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally III
(55 Pa.Code Chapter 5310)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – July 2015

The clarifications and interpretations below will remain on the Department's web site until the information is included in the next updated Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG).

Regulation: § 5310.32(c)(1) – Intake

§ 5310.32 –

(c) The CRRS staff shall obtain the following information about each client prior to the client's enrollment in the CRRS.

(1) Mental health information, including mental health history and evidence of psychiatric disability which is a certification of mental disorder dated not more than 1 year prior to client's planned enrollment.

Question: Who is qualified to sign a certification of mental disorder?

ANSWER: A psychiatrist, medical doctor, certified registered nurse practitioner, or a physician's assistant practicing under the supervision of a physician may sign a certification of mental disorder.

Regulation: § 5310.32(c)(2) – Intake

§ 5310.32 –

(c) The CRRS staff shall obtain the following information about each client prior to the client's enrollment in the CRRS.

(2) A health appraisal signed by a licensed physician, which includes:

(i) A review of health history.

(ii) A complete physical examination dated not more than 6 months prior to client's enrollment.

(iii) Drug or alcohol history.

(iv) Recommendations pertaining to medication and limitations of the client's activities or diet.

(v) Recommendations for follow-up by the CRRS in helping the client maintain on-going health care.

Question: Who qualifies as a licensed physician? Can a physician's assistant complete the health appraisal?

ANSWER: A licensed medical doctor, certified registered nurse practitioner, or a physician's assistant practicing under the supervision of a

physician qualifies as a licensed physician. Physician's assistants and certified registered nurse practitioners may complete the health appraisal as long as the physician's assistant is practicing under the supervision of a physician.

Regulation: § 5310.81(3) – Intake

§ 5310.81 –

(3) The circumstances under which the CRRS stores medications for clients. Storing medications is subject to the following limitations:

(i) Only medications which are prescribed for self-administration may be stored by the CRRS on site.

(ii) Medications stored by the CRRS must be kept in a locked container or a container in a locked room.

(iii) Medications shall be kept in their original prescription containers.

Question: May clients use weekly medi-sets (medication storage organizers) to store their medications?

ANSWER: Yes, as long as the client is the one storing the medication(s) and is responsible for the medication(s), the medication(s) do not need to be stored in their original prescription containers.