

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION SKILLS COMPETENCY

Certificates of Completion

- Two-hour course completion
- One-hour Initial Skills Competency evaluation
- Reassessment Skills Competency evaluation

Reassessment of Skills Due

- IQ4K - Every two years
- Head Start - Annually
- NAEYC - Annually
- QPPS - Annually

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION SKILLS COMPETENCY

Who should take this course?

Safe medication administration in child care is crucial to the health and wellness of children. In Iowa, all child care providers are required to take minimum health and safety trainings including the basics of medication administration, which is included in the Essentials Series. However, child care providers/staff responsible for administering medication to children need additional training to ensure that they have the skills needed to safely provide medications. **Best practice indicates that having a limited number of trained staff assigned to administering medications to children in child care helps prevent medication errors.**

The Medication Administration Skills Competency course and in-person skills competency evaluation (test-out) addresses the administration of oral medications, topical creams/ointments, eye drops, eardrops, nasal sprays, nebulizer treatments and metered-dose inhalers.

The following eligibility requirements for this course include:

- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Individuals responsible for handling and administering medications must be able to read and understand pharmacy and non-prescription medication labels.
- Completion of Essentials for Medication in Child Care prior to enrolling in this course.
- Be assigned the role of medication administration (i.e.: owner/director, assistant director, lead teaching staff)
- Participants must have a minimum passing score of 80% on the Competency Skills Assessment (test-out).

The course is approved for 5 years. The skills competency (test-out) is a quality measure and should be reassessed per the child care programs' quality protocol (every 1-2 years) or whenever a medication error occurs.