### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the safe administration of medications by licensed personnel.

### POLICY

Licensed nursing personnel will administer and document only those medications which have been ordered as a part of the plan of care and have been approved for safe administration and monitoring during a home visit.

Registered nurses may administer oral, subcutaneous, intramuscular, and intravenous medication

Licensed practical nurses may administer oral, subcutaneous, and intramuscular injections. Intravenous medication administration will be per state Nurse Practice Act.

Per practice act guidelines, certification and competency demonstrated for IV administration of identified drugs will be documented in the clinician’s personnel file.

Non-licensed personnel may, with instruction, supervise and assist the patient’s self-administration of medication.

Ohio Living Home Health nursing will have access to and utilize First Databank (FDB) within the electronic medical records as well as pharmacists filling the prescription. These references provide information concerning drug indications, drug interactions, pharmacology/ pharmacokinetics, side/adverse effects, and patient consultation guidance, dosing information, and dosing forms.

### PROCEDURE

1. As part of the assessment process, a drug history will be taken, including prescribed and over-the-counter medications, and herbal and nutritional supplements. A comparison will be made between the physician’s orders and the current medications the patient is taking. Any discrepancies or contradictions should be reported to the physician for resolution.
2. The nurse will provide medication instruction to the patient on a continuing basis. This instruction will include medication administration, route, how medication relates to disease process, contraindications, side effects, and adverse reactions.
3. Licensed nurses may administer medications ordered by the physician (or other authorized licensed practitioner) that can be safely administered and monitored during a home visit.
   1. For those ordered medications that cannot be safely administered and monitored, the physician will be contacted for discussion.
4. Only licensed nurses will administer medications.
5. Nurses who provide intermittent home care visits will document only those medications that they administer, not medications the patient self‑administers during the absence of nursing personnel.
6. Medications will be administered within one hour before or after the prescribed times. Deviance from this time frame will be noted in the patient’s medical record with an explanation made in the clinical notes.
7. Medications refused, held, and/or omitted will be indicated in the patient’s medical record with an explanation made in the clinical notes. The attending physician/provider will be notified and orders obtained as appropriate.
8. If, in the judgment of the nurse, it would be beneficial to the patient to document his/her self‑administered medications, a patient self-medication checklist may be prepared and left in the home for the patient’s use. This document will be used as a service only and will not be incorporated into the clinical record.
9. Ohio Living Home Health will not administer blood and blood products in the home.