

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION/INTERPRETATION

TO:	Name and Title: Jannis Conselyea, Bureau Chief	FROM:	Name and Title: Darin Heitt-Rennie, TCM
	Organizational Unit: DPHHS/DSD/DDP		Organizational Unit: Helena Industries Case Management
	Address: PO Box 4210, Helena MT 59604-4210		Address: Po Box 517, Bozeman MT 59771-0517

1. TYPE OF REQUEST: Follow-up to Verbal Request - Date of Verbal Request: _____ Written Request

2. STATEMENT OF QUESTION OR ISSUE: I am the case manager for a minor child residing in a children's group home that specializes in autism spectrum disorders. The parent of this child wants to have a naturopathic physician prescribe a significant amount of naturopathic supplements, treatments and medications, some of which are not approved by the current medical doctor for this young man. The primary (M.D.) physician not only won't approve these, she feels they have the potential to harm the child. The mother states that MDs do not understand naturopathic methods and that is the reason that they will not ok these supplements, treatments and medications. The child's mother desires that group home staff administer the naturopathic procedures, medications and supplements anyway. She is willing to find any doctor or naturopathic physician she can in order to have the treatments, medications and supplements prescribed and administered. The questions that I need answered are,

- 1) Since this is a Medicaid-funded facility, does an MD need to approve naturopathic medications and/or treatments in order for staff to administer those medications and/or treatments for an individual in DD funded services?
- 2) If staff suspects the mother/guardian is administering supplements, treatments and medications off site, what liability do the team members have?
- 3) What credentialing does a physician (NP, ND, MD) need for provider staff to follow administering instruction of supplements, treatments and medications?
- 4) Does a physician need to have hospital admitting privileges?
- 5) Must a physician (NP, ND, MD) be licensed in Montana in order that provider staff must follow administering instruction of supplements, treatments and medications?

References:

ANSWER:

1. No, the MD does not need to approve the treatments or medications. Montana Code Annotated 33-22-111 clarifies under the freedom of choice of practitioners and includes any licensed physician, physician assistant, osteopath or naturopathic physician within the scope and limitations of the person's practice.
2. If the mother chooses to administer supplements prescribed by a licensed practitioner the group home staff bear no liability. For the safety of the individual, all medications that are prescribed should be communicated to all other prescribing authorities (health care providers) of that individual in order to prevent adverse drug reactions.
3. All practitioners must be licensed according to the requirements set forth by their field of study.
4. No, a physician does not need to have hospital admitting privileges in order to prescribe treatments and supplements.
5. A physician must be licensed in the state they practice in.

References:


 Approved and Issued by: _____
 (Program Director)

Date: 3-10-10

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