

# Medication Aide Frequently Asked Questions

## Who should take this training?

### What are the pre-requisites for the students to take this training?

There are no statewide prerequisites required to take the training. However, there are State requirements to work as a Medication Aide in a skilled nursing facility. See section below.

It is also recommended that students work as a certified nursing assistant for six months before taking this course and be at least 18 years of age.

### Can someone under the age of 18 enroll in the course?

Yes, this is just a recommendation.

### What are the pre-requisites for the students to work in a skilled nursing facility as a medication aide?

Minnesota law governs the qualifications required to work as a medication aide in a licensed nursing home. Students must have completed a nursing assistant training program approved by the Minnesota Department of Health before enrollment in a trained medication aide program to work in skilled nursing facility. These employees are not required to take the nursing assistant exam, nor to have ever been on the nursing assistant registry.

It is the facility that employs the MA student that is ultimately responsible for documenting completion of an approved nursing assistant training program. If a student questions their eligibility, we encourage them to [visit this website](#) for more information.

### If someone is a trained medication aide in another state, do they have to take this class?

Yes, they must take this class if they want to use this class to meet the requirements to work as a medication aide in a nursing facility. This is true even if someone was trained as a trained medication aide in another state.

### Can the test be challenged?

No, the state statute requires that they take the course at a post-secondary institution.

### What is the reading level for this course?

The average reading level of Hartman's Complete Guide for the Medication Aide is 9th grade, depending upon the amount and type of medical terminology used in each chapter.

### What if a non-nursing assistant student or non-long term care employee would like to take this class? Are they able to take the course?

If someone wants to take the course for another reason besides working in a long-term care facility as a medication aide, that is allowed. Sometimes people want to take the course for their own learning, or they are working at an assisted living facility. People who need this training to meet the criteria to work in a skilled nursing facility must have taken and passed a Minnesota approved nursing assistant training program prior to taking the medication aide course.

### **Is there a test-out option for this course?**

Unfortunately, there is not a test out option in Minnesota, even if you have completed a similar training in another state. Minnesota law governs the qualifications required to work as a medication aide in a licensed nursing home. If you question your eligibility, please visit this website for more information.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4658.1360/>

### **Is there a recertification for this course?**

No, unfortunately this is a common misconception about the course. Taking and passing this course does ***not*** result in a certification, thus there is also no recertification.

This training fulfills the MN State Statute requirements for a standardized medication administration training program for unlicensed personnel in nursing homes which is offered through a Minnesota postsecondary educational institution. Please see more specifics here: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4658.1360/>

### **How long is the certificate of completion good for?**

Since this training results in a certificate of completion versus a “certificate” or a “certified training” there is no expiration date. Once a person has taken the class, they don’t need to retake the class – unless of course they lose their certificate of completion and the school cannot find documentation of their attendance.

### **Will a college transcript be sufficient for a certificate of completion?**

Yes, per an email from MDH, “The individual’s transcript should be adequate documentation to meet Minnesota Nursing Home licensure rule 4658.1360. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4658.1360/> to work as a TMA. The nursing home/Board and Care need to maintain documentation as noted below.

*In part...4658.1360 ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS BY UNLICENSED PERSONNEL. Subp. 3.*

#### **Documentation of training course.**

A nursing home must keep written documentation verifying completion of the required course by all unlicensed nursing personnel administering medications.”

### **What is required for students to pass the course?**

To successfully complete the course, students must:

- achieve a cumulative score of 75% or higher on chapter quizzes and final knowledge exams\*; and
- demonstrate competency of skills by passing the final skills exam\*\*; and
- meet the class attendance requirements with a minimum of 48 hours.

*\*Students must receive at least 75% cumulatively in the course to proceed to the skills final exam.*

*\*\*Student must receive 80% or higher on all competency skills in the skills final exam, which includes successfully completing each critical step.*

### **What happens if a student misses a class, can they make up hours to meet the 48 hours required?**

Yes, make-up hours are allowed. It is up to the discretion of the program/instructor if and how make up hours are allowed/facilitated.

### **Is there a job shadowing requirement?**

No, there are no job shadow requirements.

**Do skills nursing facilities get reimbursed the cost paid for an employee to complete a Medication Aide training course?**

Yes, the allowable costs of training for a Medication Aide course for someone employed by the facility would be covered under the DHS Nursing Facility Scholarship program, for participating nursing facilities. This would include tuition, books, fees, and required course supplies. Participating nursing facilities can claim the allowable costs and receive reimbursement. Nursing facilities that have questions about what is/isn't reimbursable under the scholarship program should contact: Munna Yasiri at [munna.yasiri@state.mn.us](mailto:munna.yasiri@state.mn.us) .

Only nursing facilities participating in the DHS Nursing Facility Employee Scholarship Program may receive reimbursement.

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