

# Medication Aide Course Overview

**Course Description:** This 58 hour course consists of 48 classroom hours (six 8 hour days) and a minimum of 10 clinical hours. The purpose of this course is to prepare individuals to safely administer non-parenteral medications in agencies/facilities licensed by DIA. The emphasis is on **safe** administration and students are provided with classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences to assist in achieving the course competencies.

Clinical must be completed at the student's place of employment where the student must be supervised by an RN there assigned to directly supervise actual medication administration to satisfy the clinical there.

**Course Pre-requisites\*:** In order to take this course, the applicant must be drug free and working in an agency/facility licensed by DIA. Other requirements include:

- If employed in a certified nursing facility
  - All applicants must be employed for at least six months by the facility sponsor
  - Must be eligible on the Iowa Nurse Aide Registry
  - Provide recommendation from the administrator in the facility in which they are employed
- If employed in a residential or related type of agency licensed by DIA
  - Provide recommendation from the administrator in the facility in which they are employed
- Agencies/facilities licensed by DIA
  - Long Term Care (LTC)
  - Assisted Living Programs (ALP)
  - Residential Care Facilities (RCF)
  - Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF)
  - Intermediate Care Facilities for the Intellectually Disabled (ICF-ID)
  - Psychiatric Medical Institutions for Children (PMIC)
  - Psychiatric Medical Institutions (PMI)
- All participants must satisfactorily complete the Prepare to Care Core module during the Medication Aide course.
- At the time of enrollment, each student must identify the RN who will supervise the validation of competencies in the clinical area.

*\*The new rules apply only to individuals employed in residential care facilities licensed for more than 15 beds. Residential care facilities licensed for 15 or fewer beds may continue to use medication managers to administer nonparenteral medications. The requirement that CMAs working in nursing facilities or skilled nursing facilities must first be a certified nursing assistant remains unchanged as this is a federal requirement.*

**Course Methodology:** The course consists of classroom, laboratory and clinical activities. Students enrolled in this course will use the following textbook (provided in class):  
Sorrentino, S.A & Remmert, L.N. *Mosby's Textbook for Medication Assistants.*  
(current edition) St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

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## **Attendance:**

Good attendance is vital to course success. Students may miss no more than 4 hours of class unexcused. Illness with a doctor's excuse will count as an excused absence. Time and any quizzes or assignments missed for any excused absence must be made up.

**Course Evaluation:** Successful completion of the course will be determined by unit examinations (average of 78%), demonstration of competency of the skills as documented by the skills checklist and successful completion of the clinical portion of the course with written documentation by the RN assigned to supervise the clinical at the worksite. Following completion of the class and clinical components, students must satisfactorily complete a state final written examination (80% competency). Following satisfactory performance the state final written exam, a certificate of attendance will be issued.

**Successful Completion:** All portions of the course, classroom, laboratory, clinical and state testing must be completed. Upon successful completion of the course the student will receive a certificate of completion.

**Non-Discrimination Statement** It is the policy of Indian Hills Community College to provide equal educational and employment opportunities and not to illegally discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, national origin, religion, genetic information or disability in its educational programs, activities or its employment and personnel policies. It is the further policy of Indian Hills Community College that no retaliatory action shall be taken against any person exercising their rights as an employee or student irrespective of the outcome of any procedure instituted hereunder. Inquiries or grievances related to this policy may be directed to Bonnie Campbell, Director of Human Resources/Equity Coordinator, 525 Grandview, Ottumwa, IA 52501, 641-683-5108; the Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in Des Moines; the Director of the Region VII Office of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Disability Services/Accommodations** Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations or special services should contact IHCC Disability Services for assistance. Services are available to students who need classroom accommodations, interpreters, and/or specialized equipment. Students enrolling in credit programs should make their requests for accommodations at the time they are applying for admission and preferably, no later than six weeks prior to the beginning of each academic term. All student requests are dealt with in a confidential manner. Students should contact the Ottumwa Disabilities Center by calling 641-683-5749. Centerville students should contact the Academic SUCCESS Center at 641-856-2143, ext. 2214 or email [disabilityservices@indianhills.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@indianhills.edu).