



Arkansas State Board of Nursing



**MEDICATION
ASSISTANT**
certified

in
Nursing Homes
in Arkansas

Tasks Not Within the Scope:

- Receive or administer controlled substances
- Destroy medications
- Administer parenteral, injectables
- Administer medications via tubes
- Calculate drug doses
- Receive written or verbal orders or transcribe orders
- Evaluate medication error reports
- Engage in patient teaching
- Conduct patient assessments or evaluations
- Order medications by a route that MA-C can not administer

Arkansas State Board of Nursing

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Who is a medication assistant – certified (MA-C)

A MA-C is a certified nursing assistant who is currently employed in a nursing home, has worked there for at least one continuous year full-time, and is in good standing on the state's certified nurse aide registry. The MA-C has successfully completed a medication assistant training program and has passed a Board approved certification examination.



Duties of a MA-C:

- Administer non-prescription and legend drugs by the approved medication routes, when delegated by a licensed nurse, to no more than 40 patients during a shift.
- Document medications administered.

Training Programs:

Content includes a minimum of 45 hours of theory and 55 hours of clinical experience (15 hours in skills lab and 40 hours of supervised progressive experience giving medications in the nursing home setting). Offered through nursing education programs.

Certification:

- Renewed every two years
- Requires 8 contact hours of continuing education related to medications..

Endorsement:

A medication assistant may be endorsed from another state, IF the applicant meets the qualifications of MA-Cs in Arkansas

Scope of Work:

To perform the delegated function of medication administration and related tasks under the supervision of a licensed nurse. A licensed nurse can supervise no more than two MA-Cs at any one time.



Approved Medication Routes:

Oral, topical; eye, ear, and nose drops; vaginal, rectal, transdermal and oral inhalers.



Work Settings:

The MA-C can only administer medications in nursing homes in Arkansas. Nursing homes who utilize MACs must notify the Board. It is not mandatory that nursing homes utilize MA-Cs, only optional.