MEMORANDUM
Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)
Regulatory Services Policy * Survey and Certification Clarification

TO: Regulatory Services
Regional Directors and State Office Managers

FROM: Veronda L. Durden
Assistant Commissioner
Regulatory Services

SUBJECT: Use of Ipecac Syrup - S&CC #05-07

APPLIES TO: Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Day Care Facilities

DATE: May 27, 2005

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information on the requirement of stocking and maintaining a treatment for poisoning - use of Ipecac Syrup (Ipecac). Medical communities have questioned whether or not Ipecac should be removed as part of first aid supplies.

The requirement for stocking and maintaining a treatment for poisoning may be found at 40 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §92.41(k)(2) for Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) and §98.62(g)(1) for Adult Day Care facilities (ADCs). Based on this requirement, it has been the practice for Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) inspection teams to always check for an unexpired bottle of Ipecac.

Texas Poison Center prefers Ipecac not be considered a remedy for poisoning except in a dire situation. Their recommendation is not to use Ipecac without first consulting a physician or contacting the Texas Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. The Center has not, to date, provided a replacement for Ipecac.

As of this writing, Ipecac is still available to the public as a treatment for poisoning, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently investigating its continued use. Pending the outcome of this investigation, DADS will accept the immediate availability of the poison center phone number listed above, and Ipecac, if the facility chooses to stock and maintain it, as meeting TAC requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Dotty Acosta, Assisted Living and Adult Day Care Policy Specialist, Policy Development and Support, at (512) 438-2170.

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