

Senate Bill 215

By: Senators Walker III of the 20th, Burke of the 11th, Butler of the 55th, Hatchett of the 50th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to authorize certified  
3 medication aides to administer certain medications to nursing home residents under certain  
4 circumstances; to provide criteria and requirements; to provide for related matters; to provide  
5 for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 regulation of hospitals and related institutions, is amended by adding a new Code section to  
10 read as follows:

11 "31-7-12.7.

12 (a) A nursing home may employ certified medication aides for the purpose of performing  
13 the technical aspects of the administration of certain medications in accordance with this  
14 Code section.

15 (b) A nursing home shall not employ an individual as a certified medication aide unless  
16 such individual is listed in the medication aide registry established and maintained by the

17 department pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (g) of Code Section 31-7-12.2, is in  
18 good standing with the department, and has met all of the qualifications in paragraph (3)  
19 of subsection (g) of Code Section 31-7-12.2.

20 (c) A nursing home shall annually conduct a comprehensive clinical skills competency  
21 review of each certified medication aide employed by such nursing home.

22 (d) A certified medication aide who meets the criteria established in this Code section shall  
23 be permitted to perform the following tasks in a nursing home in accordance with the  
24 written instructions of a physician:

25 (1) Administer physician ordered oral, ophthalmic, topical, otic, nasal, vaginal, and rectal  
26 medications;

27 (2) Administer insulin, epinephrine, and B12 pursuant to physician direction and  
28 protocol;

29 (3) Administer medications via a metered dose inhaler;

30 (4) Conduct finger stick blood glucose testing following established protocol;

31 (5) Administer a commercially prepared disposable enema as ordered by a physician;  
32 and

33 (6) Assist residents in the supervision of self-administration of medications.

34 (e) A certified medication aide shall record in the medication administration record all  
35 medications that such certified medication aide has personally administered to a resident  
36 of a nursing home and any refusal of a resident to take a medication. A certified  
37 medication aide shall observe a resident to whom a medication has been administered and  
38 shall report any changes in the condition of such resident to a charge nurse.

39 (f) All medications administered by a certified medication aide in accordance with this  
40 Code section shall be in unit or multidose packaging.

41 (g) A nursing home that employs one or more certified medication aides to administer  
42 medications in accordance with this Code section shall secure the services of a licensed

43 pharmacist to perform the following duties as part of the nursing home's peer review,  
44 medical review, and quality assurance functions:

45 (1) Perform a quarterly review of the drug regimen of each resident of the nursing home  
46 and report any irregularities to the nursing home administrator;

47 (2) Remove for proper disposal any drugs that are expired, discontinued, in a deteriorated  
48 condition, or when the resident for whom such drugs were ordered is no longer a resident;

49 (3) Establish or review policies and procedures for safe and effective drug therapy,  
50 distribution, use, and control; and

51 (4) Monitor compliance with established policies and procedures for medication  
52 handling and storage.

53 (h) A nursing home that employs one or more certified medication aides to administer  
54 medications in accordance with this Code section shall ensure that each certified  
55 medication aide receives ongoing medication training as prescribed by the department. A  
56 registered professional nurse or pharmacist shall conduct quarterly unannounced  
57 medication administration observations and report any issues to the nursing home  
58 administrator."

59 **SECTION 2.**

60 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
61 without such approval.

62 **SECTION 3.**

63 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.