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Memorandum

To: Long-Term Care Facilities

From: Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

Date: April 13, 2020

Subject: Extension of Time for Inspecting, Re-Stocking and Resealing
of Emergency Medication Kit

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work with state, federal and local partners on the outbreak of novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and we continue to appreciate the essential role you have in responding to this evolving situation.

This letter is jointly issued by the Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality (BHCSQ) and the Board of Registration in Pharmacy (BORP), through the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure.

The long-term care regulations, in 105 CMR 150.008(E), require an emergency medication kit to be provided in long-term care facilities. Pursuant to the regulation, after an emergency medication kit has been opened, the emergency medication kit must be inspected, re-stocked and resealed by the pharmacist within 48 hours prior to further use.

For the duration of the state of emergency in the Commonwealth declared by the Governor on March 10, 2020, DPH is extending the time period in which the emergency medication kit must be inspected, re-stocked and resealed by a pharmacist. If medications in the emergency medication kit must be used per orders of a resident's primary care provider, the long-term care facility must ensure that the opened emergency medication kit is inspected, re-stocked and resealed by the pharmacist as soon as reasonably practicable but not later than 7 days from the date on which the emergency medication kit was opened.

DPH strongly encourages all long-term care facilities in Massachusetts to monitor the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for up-to-date information and resources:

- CMS website: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

- CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html>

Additionally, please visit DPH's website that provides up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Massachusetts: <https://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus>.