

NOTICE

From: Department of Public Health, Medication Administration Program (MAP)
To: MAP Administrators and Coordinators
Date: March 18, 2020
Subject: OTC Method B – Remote verification by licensed professionals

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the spread of COVID-19. In light of this emergency and associated social distancing guidance, several Medication Administration Program (MAP) sites are engaging in telehealth, rather than having licensed professionals attend these sites in-person in non-emergent circumstances.

For sites that use Method B to facilitate administration of over-the-counter (OTC) medications and preparations, this may pose a problem, as MAP Policy 06-6 *Over-the-Counter Medications and Preparations* includes requirements for a licensed professional to provide in-person verification.

To address this particular need and provide available flexibility during this declared emergency, the Drug Control Program and MAP is authorizing sites without non-emergent, in-person licensed professional to employ telehealth for this verification step. Specifically, the following alternative verification procedures are authorized:

Policy 06-6 (2)(b)(iii)-(v): A licensed professional can compare the manufacturer's label to the Health Care Provider order and verify the contents of the OTC or preparation via photos and phone communication or video communication with MAP Certified staff. Pursuant to the licensed professional's comparison and verification, MAP Certified staff may:

- initial the container;
- place the name of individual(s) on the container; and
- place the date of verification on the container.