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Subject: Advanced Registered Medication Aides in Assisted Living Facilities Memo

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: March 4, 2026

TO: Assisted Living Facilities

FROM: Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs

SUBJECT: Advanced Registered Medication Aides Working in Assisted Living Facilities

The Virginia Board of Nursing has [updated](#) the *Regulations Governing the Registration of Medication Aides* (18VAC90-60) to include provisions for Advanced Registered Medication Aides (ARMAs). These updates take effect on March 11, 2026.

The Division of Licensing Programs has received inquiries regarding the scope of practice for ARMAs working in Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs).

The revised regulations state in 18VAC90-60-150.C, “An advanced registered medication aide working in an assisted living facility shall abide by the limitations included in 18VAC90-60-110.” Accordingly, an ARMA working in a licensed ALF is limited to the scope of practice for Registered Medication Aides (RMAs). **The broader scope of practice permitted for ARMAs in skilled nursing facilities does not apply to assisted living settings.**

Questions regarding the *Regulations Governing the Registration of Medication Aides* should be directed to the Board of Nursing at nursebd@dhp.virginia.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.