

Q. Can a Personal Care Aide (PCA) administer eye drops?

A. No. PCAs are not permitted to administer eye drops, as this is considered medication administration. A PCA may remind a beneficiary when it is time to take medication or hand the medication to the beneficiary if it is already set up and the beneficiary can self-administer.

Q. Can a Personal Care Aide (PCA) run errands for a beneficiary?

A. No. PCAs are not allowed to run errands for beneficiaries, such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, or other community errands. PCS services are intended to support personal care tasks provided in the home.

A PCA may only assist with tasks within the home that are directly related to the beneficiary's personal care and are listed in the approved service plan. Errands outside the home are not considered allowable PCS tasks.

Q. Can a Personal Care Aide (PCA) give over-the-counter (OTC) medications?

A. No. PCAs are not allowed to give or administer over-the-counter (OTC) medications. Medication administration, including OTC medications is not permitted.

A PCA may:

- Remind the beneficiary when it is time to take medication
- Hand the medication to the beneficiary only if it is already set up and the beneficiary is able to self-administer

Q. What housekeeping tasks can a PCS aide perform?

A. PCS aides may provide limited housekeeping that is directly related to the beneficiary's personal care needs and is included in the approved service plan.

PCS aides may help with:

- Cleaning the immediate area used during personal care (for example, the bathroom after bathing or toileting)
- Light kitchen cleanup related to the beneficiary's meals (wiping counters, washing dishes used by the beneficiary)
- Making the bed and changing bed linens, when related to hygiene or incontinence
- Laundry for the beneficiary only, when needed for hygiene or incontinence and when laundry equipment is available in the home
- Clearing pathways to ensure safe mobility

Q. Can a caregiver apply topical creams or lotions?

PCS Front Porch Chat FAQ's

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A. Yes. Caregivers may apply non prescription (over the counter) topical creams or lotions. Prescription creams or medications may not be applied unless specifically authorized under program guidelines and the plan of care.

Q. Can a family member, such as a cousin, be hired to provide care?

A. Yes. Cousins are not included in this restricted list and may be eligible to provide care, as long as all other program requirements are met. This includes anyone who lives in the same household as the beneficiary or who is a legally responsible person, such as a spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, or grandchild (including step-relatives and in-laws).