



IHSS

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
TRAINING ACADEMY

A PROJECT OF SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Paramedical Services

What is a Paramedical Service?

In IHSS, paramedical services are services that require authorization and training by a medical professional before they can be provided.

Some examples of paramedical services are:

- Administering medication or giving injections
- Blood/urine testing
- Wound care
- Catheter care and ostomy irrigation
- Any treatments requiring sterile procedures
- Enemas, digital stimulation, or the insertion of suppositories
- Tube feeding
- Suctioning

Let your new provider know what will be expected.

During the job interview, you should discuss all of the IHSS services, including paramedical, for which you have been approved IHSS hours. Some providers may not be comfortable providing some types of personal care and/or paramedical services and may not want the responsibility that comes with this type of care.

Your provider must be trained to perform paramedical services.

IHSS regulations require that a licensed healthcare professional, such as a doctor, order and direct the paramedical services. Your doctor will need to complete a paramedical form, and you will also need to sign this form. The completed form must be received by the county before your provider can be paid to provide these services.

- You need to make arrangements for your new provider to be trained by your doctor on how to provide any paramedical services you need and the risks involved. If you are not sure about how the services should be done, you should also ask your doctor about this.
- You and your provider should also know what to do if there is an emergency while your provider is performing paramedical services.
- It is very important that your provider NOT perform any paramedical service for you until he/she has received proper training by a licensed healthcare professional.

Things to keep in mind:

- ✓ Always be sure that your provider washes his/her hands and wears gloves before performing any paramedical task. This will help to protect the health of both you and your provider.
- ✓ Paramedical services needs may change more frequently than other services. If your needs change, you should contact your social worker so he/she can request a new paramedical order from your doctor.
- ✓ Your provider may also need to receive additional training on any new paramedical services your doctor may order.

For more information, contact your local county IHSS office.