Highlights of State of Washington Boarding Home Licensing Rules Especially Relevant to Pharmacy Practice, Chapter 388-78A WAC (update 7-30-04—all parts effective 9-01-05)

1. A “Boarding Home” is any home or other institution that is advertised, announced or maintained with the purpose of providing:
   housing
   basic services (housekeeping, meals, nutritious snacks, laundry and activities)
   general responsibility for the safety and well-being or residents (special diets, resident monitoring, coordination of care, medication assistance as permitted)
   It may also provide “domiciliary care”:
   assistance with ADLs
   health support services (diets, dementia care, mental health, blood glucose testing)
   intermittent nursing services

2. Assisted living facilities in Washington are licensed as boarding homes. “Assisted living services” is a package of services provided by a boarding home that has a contract with DSHS under RCW 74.39A.010 to provide personal care services, intermittent nursing services, and medication administration services in accordance with regulations. Assisted living services include housing for the resident in a private apartment-like unit.

3. “Boarding Home” does not include any independent senior housing, independent living units in a CCRC, facilities certified as group teaching homes.

4. By definition, residents of boarding homes do not require the frequent presence and frequent evaluation of a registered nurse, excluding individual who are receiving hospice care or individuals who have a short term illness (expected to resolve within 14 days, as long as the boarding home has the capacity to meet the individual’s identified needs).

5. Assessment and monitoring of boarding home residents includes:
   Preadmission assessment (WAC defines topics of assessment and “qualified assessor”, medication management abilities, many other evaluations.
   On-going assessments: full assessment at least annually, assessment focuses on a resident’s identified problems
   Monitoring residents’ well-being

6. Medications:
   Four pages of the regulation describe medication services, authorization describing of medications, medication refusal and follow-up, non-availability of medications, alteration of medications, storing medications (by the facility or the resident), use of medication “organizers”, family assistance with medications.