

New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners

Authority

N.J.S.A. 26:6A-1 et seq., specifically 26:6A-4; 45:1-15.1 and 45:9-2.

Source and Effective Date

R.2005 d.120, effective March 17, 2005.
See: 36 N.J.R. 4633(a), 37 N.J.R. 1203(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 35, Board of Medical Examiners, expires on March 17, 2010.

13:35-6.4 Delegation of administration of subcutaneous and intramuscular injections to certified medical assistants

(a) The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

1. "Physician" means a doctor of medicine (M.D.), a doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.), or a doctor of podiatric medicine.
2. "Certified medical assistant" means a graduate of a post-secondary medical assisting education program accredited by CAHEA (The Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association), or its successor; ABHES (Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools), or its successor; or any accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The educational program shall include, at a minimum, 600 clock hours of instruction and shall encompass training in the administration of intramuscular and subcutaneous injections and instruction and demonstration in: pertinent anatomy and physiology appropriate to injection procedures; choice of equipment; proper technique including sterile technique; hazards and complications; and emergency procedures. The medical assistant must also maintain current certification from the Certifying Board of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA), the National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT), or registration from the American Medical Technologists (AMT), or any other recognized certifying body approved by the Board.

(b) A physician may direct a certified medical assistant employed in the medical practice in which the physician practices medicine, to administer to the physician's patients an intramuscular or subcutaneous injection in the limited circumstances set forth in this section, without being in violation of the pertinent professional practice act

implemented by the Board, to the extent such conduct is permissible under any other pertinent law or rule administered by the Board or any other State agency.

(c) A physician may direct the administration of an injection by a certified medical assistant only where the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The physician has determined and documented that the certified medical assistant has the qualifications set forth in (a)2 above and has attained a satisfactory level of comprehension and experience in the administration of intramuscular and subcutaneous injection techniques.
2. The physician shall examine the patient to ascertain the nature of the trauma, disease or condition of the patient; to determine the appropriate treatment of the patient including administration of an injection; to assess the risks of such injection for a given patient and the diagnosed injury, disease or condition; and to determine that the anticipated benefits are likely to outweigh those risks.
3. The physician shall determine all components of the precise treatment to be given, including the type of injection to be utilized, dosage, method and area of administration, and any other factors peculiar to the risks, such as avoidance of administration sites on certain parts of the body. The physician shall assure that this information shall be written on the patient's record and made available at all times to the medical assistant carrying out the treatment instructions, who shall also be identified by name and credentials in the patient record on each occasion that an injection is administered.
4. The physician shall remain on the premises at all times that treatment orders for injections are being carried out by the assistant and shall be within reasonable proximity to the treatment room and available to observe, assess and take any necessary action regarding effectiveness, adverse reaction or any emergency.
5. The certified medical assistant shall wear a clearly visible identification badge indicating his or her name and credentials.

(d) The physician shall not direct the administration by a certified medical assistant of an injection which includes any of the following: any substance related to allergenic testing or treatment, local anesthetics, controlled dangerous substances, experimental drugs including any drug not having approval of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or any substance used as an antineoplastic chemotherapeutic agent with the exception of corticosteroids.