

2 **Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-11-244**

3 Copy Citation

4 Current through the 2022 Regular Session.

- 5 • [TN - Tennessee Code Annotated](#)
- 6 • [Title 68 Health, Safety and Environmental Protection](#)
- 7 • [Health](#)
- 8 • [Chapter 11 Health Facilities and Resources](#)
- 9 • [Part 2 Regulation of Health and Related Facilities](#)

10 68-11-244. Certified **medical assistants**.

13 (a) As used in this section:

14 (1) "Ambulatory outpatient hospital clinic" means a clinic or physician office that is owned and
15 operated by a hospital licensed under this title and that provides treatment to patients who are not
16 admitted as inpatients to the hospital;

17 (2) "Certified **medical assistant**" means personnel with training to function in an assistive role to a
18 licensed physician or licensed nurse in the provision of patient care activities in a facility used as an
19 ambulatory outpatient hospital clinic as delegated by the physician or licensed nurse; and

20 (3) "Licensed nurse" means an individual engaged in the practice of professional nursing as defined in
21 § 63-7-103 or an advanced practice registered nurse as defined in § 63-7-126.

22 (b) Physician **assistants** licensed under title 63, chapter 19 and medication aides certified under § 63-
23 7-127 are not subject to the certification requirements or practice restrictions of this section.

24 (c) A hospital licensed under this title, may employ certified **medical assistants** to administer approved
25 medications to the hospital's patients in an ambulatory outpatient hospital clinic as set forth in this
26 section.

27 (d) When carrying out responsibilities under this section, a certified **medical assistant** shall wear a name
28 tag visible to others that displays the designation "certified **medical assistant**".

29 (e) An individual employed as a certified **medical assistant** within an ambulatory outpatient hospital
30 clinic must:

31 (1) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;

32 (2) Have completed the twelfth grade or its equivalent, or have successfully passed the test for and
33 received a general equivalency diploma; and

34 (3) Be certified by the following:

35 (A) American **Medical** Technologists (AMT);

36 (B) American Association of **Medical Assistants** (AAMA);

37 (C) National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT);

38 (D) National Healthcareer Association (NHA); or

39 (E) National Association for Health Professionals (NAHP).

40 (f) An ambulatory outpatient hospital clinic shall verify compliance with subsection (e) and shall keep
41 records regarding compliance available for the board for licensing healthcare facilities.

42 (g) An ambulatory outpatient hospital clinic is responsible for training and verifying competence of
43 certified **medical assistants** used under this section.

44 (h) Certified **medical assistants** shall not administer medications to hospital inpatients or patients in an
45 emergency department.

46 (i)

47 (1)

48 (A) A certified **medical assistant** may administer approved, standardized dosage vaccines to the patients
49 of an ambulatory outpatient hospital clinic that use certified **medical assistants** pursuant to this section.

50 A certified **medical assistant** shall administer other medications only pursuant to delegation by a
51 licensed nurse or physician.

52 (B)

53 **(i) A delegation of medication administration or other nursing tasks to a**
54 **certified medical assistant from a licensed nurse shall be carried out in accordance with the**
55 **rules for nursing delegation adopted by the board of nursing.**

56 (ii) The board of nursing may promulgate rules related to the administration of vaccines and other
57 tasks that may be delegated by a licensed nurse to certified **medical assistants** under this chapter.

58 (C)

59 **(i) A delegation of medication administration or other tasks to a**
60 **certified medical assistant from a physician must be carried out in accordance with the rules**
61 **adopted by the board of medical examiners.**

62 (ii) The board of **medical** examiners may promulgate rules related to the administration of vaccines
63 and other tasks that may be delegated by a physician to certified **medical assistants** registered by the
64 department under this chapter.

65 (D) A certified **medical assistant** may only administer vaccines after:

66 (i) An individual is assessed by a physician or licensed nurse; and

67 (ii) The physician or licensed nurse makes a determination that it is appropriate for the individual to
68 receive the immunization administered by a certified **medical assistant**.

69 (2) In exercising the authority to administer medications pursuant to a physician's or licensed nurse's
70 delegation, a certified **medical assistant** may administer only those medications that have been ordered
71 by an authorized healthcare provider and are in single-dose, appropriately labelled, ready-to-
72 administer packaging, including the following categories:

73 (A) Intramuscular or subcutaneous medications;

74 (B) Oral, sublingual, and buccal medication;

75 (C) Topical creams and ointments;

76 (D) Saline solutions for simple wound irrigation;

77 (E) Eye drops;

78 (F) Inhalation treatments, either metered hand-held inhalants or unit dose nebulizers;

79 (G) Ear medications; or

80 (H) Nasal medications.

81 (3) A certified **medical assistant** may engage in other patient care activities as delegated by a physician
82 or licensed nurse, including, but not limited to, vital sign measurement, phlebotomy, simple dressing
83 changes, collection of patient's **medical** history data, or preparation of patient care areas. A licensed
84 nurse shall not delegate patient care activities that require nursing judgment in altering care delivery
85 based on the needs of the individual. A physician shall not delegate patient care activities that
86 constitutes the practice of medicine or requires diagnostic analysis.

87 (j) A physician or licensed nurse shall not delegate to a certified **medical assistant** the administration of:

88 (1) Intravenous medications;

89 (2) Blood or blood products;

90 (3) Investigational drugs;

91 (4) Chemotherapy drugs;

92 (5) Drugs given through an implanted device;

93 (6) Insulin;

94 (7) Controlled substances;

95 (8) Anesthetic agents;

96 (9) Medications used for cosmetic procedures;

97 (10) A medication requiring calculation of dosage;

98 (11) Contrast media;

99 (12) Allergy antigen agents; or

100 (13) A medication requiring patient monitoring and assessment of response when a licensed nurse or
101 physician is not immediately available to provide monitoring or assessment.

102 (k) This section does not apply to personnel employed by a physician performing duties in settings
103 other than in an ambulatory outpatient hospital clinic.

104 105 History
