

Boards of Nursing Should Authorize APRNs to Delegate to Medical Assistants



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An adapted version of the following will be transmitted to the boards of nursing of all American jurisdictions.

It is the position of the American Association of Medical Assistants® (AAMA) that the boards of nursing of all American jurisdictions should amend their regulations/rules and/or advocate for legislation that would permit advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)—especially nurse practitioners—to delegate to appropriately educated and currently credentialed medical assistants the administering of intramuscular, intradermal, and subcutaneous injections.

In 2022, the Delaware and South Dakota boards of nursing amended their regulations to allow APRNs (and, under South Dakota law, licensed nurses) to delegate the administration of medication to knowledgeable and competent medical assistants who have met specified education and certification requirements. Note the following excerpt from the amended regulations of the Delaware Board of Nursing:

8.7.15.1 APRNs are authorized to assign and supervise medication administration to a medical assistant if the medical assistant has successfully completed a medical assistant training program and possesses current national medical assistant certification.¹

The South Dakota Board of Nursing published similar revisions to its rules:

20:48:04.01:10. Delegation of additional medication administration tasks to a medical assistant. In addition to the tasks listed in § 20:48:04.01:09.01, a licensed nurse may delegate the following medication administration tasks to a medical assistant, who holds current certification with a national certification body approved by the board [of nursing], in a stable nursing situation as defined in § 20:48:01:01:

- (1) Administration of scheduled medications by intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular route; and
- (2) Calculation of the dose of a prescribed amount.²

The AAMA continues to support the enactment of laws that authorize licensed independent providers (including physicians, APRNs, and physician assistants) to delegate to medical assistants advanced tasks—such as administering intramuscular, intradermal, and subcutaneous injections, including vaccines—when those medical assistants meet the following requirements:

- Have completed formal medical assisting education that includes pharmacology and injection theory and technique
- Have a current, accredited clinical medical assisting credential

Utilizing medical assistants to the fullest extent of their education and credentialing

will increase the efficiency of ambulatory health care delivery and expand the availability of ambulatory health care services. ♦

Please direct questions to AAMA CEO and Legal Counsel Donald A. Balasa, JD, MBA, at DBalasa@aama-ntl.org.

References

1. Delaware Board of Nursing. 24 Del.C. §1904(c), 1900 Board of Nursing, (Del 2022). Accessed June 15, 2023. <https://regulations.delaware.gov/register/june2022/proposed/25%20DE%20Reg%201112%2006-01-22.htm>
2. South Dakota Board of Nursing. *Article 20:48: Nurses*. Accessed June 15, 2023. https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/10-04-22_FinalProposedRules.pdf