



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS®

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Thank you for your inquiry concerning what tasks are delegable to medical assistants under Idaho law.

The Idaho Medical Practice Act, 54-1804, reads as follows:

Unlicensed practice—Penalties and remedies relating to unlicensed practice. – (1) Under the circumstances described and subject in each case to the limitations stated, the following persons, though not holding a license to practice medicine in this state, may engage in activities included in the practice of medicine: ...
(g) A person administering a remedy, diagnostic procedure or advice as specifically directed by a physician.

It is my legal opinion that this language authorizes physicians to delegate a reasonable scope of clinical and administrative tasks (including but not limited to venipuncture/phlebotomy and administering intramuscular, intradermal, and subcutaneous injections [including immunizations/vaccinations]) to knowledgeable and competent unlicensed professionals such as medical assistants working under their direct authority in outpatient settings.

In addition, to my knowledge, there is nothing in Idaho law which forbids supervising physicians from delegating tasks to medical assistants through intermediary personnel, such as physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, or other individuals capable of undertaking subdelegatory responsibility. It is advisable to have the supervising physicians authorize in writing which tasks are being delegated to the medical assistants, and which health professionals are being assigned by the physicians to oversee the medical assistants performing these tasks.

Tasks which constitute the practice of medicine, or which state law permits only certain health care professionals to perform, or which require the exercise of independent professional judgment or the making of clinical assessments, evaluations, or interpretations, however, may not be delegated to unlicensed professionals such as medical assistants.

I hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or need additional assistance.

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