



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS®

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Thank you for your inquiry concerning what tasks are delegable legally to medical assistants according to Kansas law.

Section 65-2872(g) of the Kansas Healing Arts Act states that the following individuals are deemed to not be engaged in the practice of medicine:

Persons whose professional services are performed under the supervision or by order or referral from a practitioner who is licensed under this Act [viz., a physician].

It is my legal opinion that this language permits physicians to delegate a reasonable scope of clinical and administrative tasks (including venipuncture/phlebotomy and administration of medication orally, and by intramuscular, intradermal, and subcutaneous injection [including vaccinations/immunizations]) to knowledgeable and competent unlicensed professionals such as medical assistants working under their direct/onsite supervision in outpatient settings. However, if there is a likelihood of significant harm to patients if an injectable medication is prepared improperly, it is my legal opinion that the delegating physician must verify the dosage and the identity of the injectable substance before it is administered.

Tasks which constitute the practice of medicine, or which state law permits only certain health 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.

Although the Nurse Practice Act and the attendant regulations of the Board of Nursing govern what nursing tasks can be delegated by nurses to unlicensed personnel, the Medical Practice Act and the attendant regulations of the Board of Medical Examiners govern what tasks can be delegated by a physician to unlicensed employees 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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