

LPN Scope of Practice

The Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN) receives frequent inquiries on the scope of practice for the licensed practical nurse (LPN). This brochure will give a brief introduction to the statutes and administrative regulations governing LPN practice. It will also reference advisory opinion statements that have been issued by the Kentucky Board of Nursing as guidelines for safe practice by the LPN.

Licensed practical nursing practice is defined by Kentucky Nursing Law, KRS 314.011(10). In 2004, the KBN promulgated Administrative Regulations related to expanded practice by the LPN for intravenous therapy, 201 KAR 20:490.

In 2005, in response to inquiries on the role, utilization and scope of licensed practical nurses, the Kentucky Board of Nursing issued an advisory opinion statement (AOS #27) as a guideline identifying components of clinical practice for the licensed practical nurse.

The Kentucky Board of Nursing issues advisory opinions as to what constitutes safe nursing practice. As such, an opinion is not a regulation of the Board and does not have the force and effect of law. It is issued as a guidepost to licensees who wish to engage in safe nursing practice.

KRS 314.021(2) holds all nurses responsible and accountable for making decisions that are based upon the individuals' education preparation and experience in nursing, and requires licensees to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety. Even though an act may be within the scope, if the LPN does not have the training and skills, the act should not be done.

Key elements of each of these are listed in this brochure.

KRS 314.011(10) Definitions

- The LPN provides care under the direction of a registered nurse, licensed physician or dentist
- Medication administration is authorized by advanced practice registered nurse, physician, physician assistant or dentist
- Teaching, supervising and delegating except as limited by the board
- Held to Standards of Practice as authorized or limited by National Federation of Practical Nurses or Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of licensed practical nurses.

KRS 314.181 Determination of Death by Registered Nurse...

- The determination and pronouncement of death of a patient whose circulation and respirations are not artificially maintained, residing in a hospital or nursing facility, is within the scope of the registered nurse and **not** in the scope of practice of the licensed practical nurse.

201 KAR 20:490. Licensed practical nurse intravenous therapy scope of practice

This Administrative Regulation contains:

1. Definitions
2. Education and Training Standards
3. Supervision requirements
4. Standards of Practice
5. Permitted Functions
6. Prohibited functions

Definitions include:

- Administration—**initiate and infuse** intravenous therapy
- Direction—communication of a plan of care based on an assessment by an ARNP, RN, physician or dentist, establishes parameters of care or performance of a procedure
- Supervision—guidance by ARNP, RN, physician or dentist to accomplish a task
- Periodic observation and evaluation includes validation that task is performed in a safe manner
- Titration – adjustment of medication dosage, or rate of solution infusion, within a specific range based on patient assessment
- Discontinuance—stopping the infusion but not removing IV access device

Supervision includes:

LPN – IV Therapy Always Requires:

DIRECTION— based on communication of a plan of care and patient assessment by RN, ARNP, MD— providing parameters of care or procedure

SUPERVISION—by providing guidance, periodic observation, evaluation, and validation

Supervision Requirements

- Degree of supervision is based on patient's condition as determined by the LPN's supervisor
- When patient's condition is stable, predictable and rapid change is not anticipated, supervisor must be readily available without having to be physically present in the immediate vicinity of the LPN

Supervisor must be physically present in the immediate vicinity of the LPN and immediately available to intervene in care **WHEN**:

1. Pt condition is or becomes critical, fluctuating, unstable or unpredictable
2. IV meds/fluids are given by push or bolus route, except heparin/saline to maintain patency
3. Patient has signs and symptoms of IV catheter related infection, venous thrombosis or central line occlusion
4. Blood/components are administered
5. Dialysis is performed

Permitted Functions

- Calculation and adjustment of flow rates on all IV fusions
- Observing and reporting adverse reactions and initiating interventions
- For all types of access devices:
 1. administration and discontinuation of IV fluids and medications (except as limited and under supervision as required)
 2. performance of site care
 3. performance of maintenance
 4. conversion from continuous to intermittent infusion
- Insertion and removal of peripheral route access devices only
- Administration, maintenance, and discontinuance of blood, blood components, and plasma volume expanders
- IV fluids and medications must be pre-mixed and labeled by a RN, MD, dentist or pharmacist, or commercially prepared
- Via push or bolus route, can administer **ONLY**, analgesics, antimetics and their antagonistic agents, diuretics, corticosteroids, and saline or heparin flush

Permitted Functions cont.

- Administration of glucose to patients fourteen (14) years of age or older via direct push or bolus route
- Administration, maintenance, and discontinuance of: select medications and fluids via a patient controlled administration system
- Parenteral nutrition and fat emulsion solutions
- Performance of dialysis treatments
- Collection of blood specimens from an IV access device

Prohibited Functions

- Administration of tissue plasminogen activators, immunoglobulin, antineoplastic agents, and investigational drugs
- Accessing of central venous devices used for hemodynamic monitoring
- Administration of medications or fluids via arterial lines
- All fluids and medications via a push or bolus route except those specifically listed in the permitted section
- Administration of fibrinolytic or thrombolytic agents to declot any IV access device
- Administration of medications requiring titration
- Administration of fibrinolytic or thrombolytic agents to declot any IV access
- Insertion or removal of any IV access device, except a peripheral route device
- Accessing or programming an implanted IV infusion pump

Prohibited Functions cont.

- Administration of IV medications for procedural sedation or anesthesia
- Administration of medication or fluids via an epidural, intrathecal, intraosseous, or umbilical route, or via a ventricular reservoir
- Administration of medication or fluids via an AV fistula or graft, except for dialysis
- Repair of central venous route access devices
- Performance of therapeutic phlebotomy
- Insertion of a noncoring needle into an implanted port
- Performance of therapeutic phlebotomy

Advisory Opinion Statement #27, "Components of Licensed Practical Nursing Practice"

Licensed practical nurses practice under the direction of a registered nurse, physician, or dentist and are not licensed for independent practice. It is not within the legal scope of licensed practical nursing practice for a licensed practical nurse to direct and supervise the practice of a registered nurse.

AOS #27 provides guidance to assure that safe and effective nursing care is provided by nurses to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Those components of LPN practice in AOS #27 include;

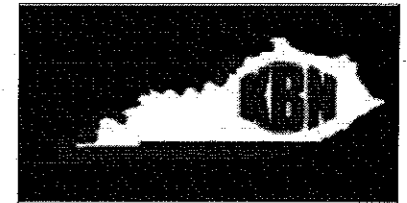
- **Assessment** is an ongoing process that consists of participation with the registered nurse in the determination of nursing care needs based upon collection and interpretation of data relevant to the health status of a client.

- **Planning** nursing care activities includes participation with the registered nurse in determining nursing interventions to meet client needs. The licensed practical nurse participates in the ongoing development and modification of the plan/strategy of care.
- **Implementation** of nursing actions consists of delivering nursing care according to an established plan/strategy of care and/or as delegated by the registered nurse.
- **Evaluation** consists of participation with the registered nurse in determining the extent to which desired outcomes of nursing care are being met, and then subsequently planning for continued care.
- **Reporting and Recording** are those communications required to document on essential records all aspects of nursing care for which the licensed practical nurse is responsible.
- **Collaborating** involves communicating and working cooperatively in implementing the nursing plan/strategy of care with individuals whose services may have a direct or indirect effect upon the client's health care.
- **Teaching and Counseling** involve those educational activities for clients based upon established written guidelines as delineated in a plan/strategy of care.

The Board has also issued a document to assist individuals in deciding scope of practice. This document, Scope of Practice Determination Guidelines can be found on the KBN website. The Statutes, Administrative Regulations and Advisory Opinions are also on this website, www.kbn.ky.gov. If you have questions regarding any of these, please contact the Nursing Practice Consultant at 502-429-3307 or the Practice Assistant at 502-429-7185.

Licensed Practical Nursing Scope of Practice in Kentucky

The Kentucky Board of Nursing is the Government agency that develops and enforces state laws governing the safe practice of nursing in order to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth.



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