KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING
312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 300
Louisville, Kentucky 40222-5172
http://kbn.ky.gov

ADVISORY OPINION STATEMENT

FACILITATION OF SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS IN A NON-HEALTHCARE SETTING

REQUEST FOR OPINION

The purpose of the Advisory Opinion Statement is to define facilitation of self-administration of medications for a location whose purpose is not healthcare.

INTRODUCTION

The Kentucky Board of Nursing is authorized by Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 314 to regulate nurses, nursing education and practice, and to issue advisory opinions on nursing practice, in order to assure that safe and effective nursing care is provided by nurses to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

This AOS is written to provide an opinion on when the facilitation of self-administration of medication is permissible in a non-health care setting and would not constitute the practice of nursing.

ADVISORY OPINION

Facilitation of self-administration of medication means the individual (or the individual's guardian, healthcare surrogate, or attorney-in-fact as appointed by a durable power of attorney to make health care decisions for the individual) has executed a written consent designating the persons or entities authorized to prepare or direct the individual's medications and authorizing the facilitation of self-administration of medications which shall be limited as follows:

(a) An individual's medication shall:
- (1) Be prepared in accordance with the direction of the individual's designated representative or a licensed health-care professional.
- (2) Except for ointments, be preset in a medication organizer or be a single dose unit; and
- (3) Include the individual's name on the medication organizer or container in which the single dose unit is stored.

(b) An unlicensed assistive personnel may:
- (1) Remind an individual when to take medications and observe to ensure that the individual takes medication as directed.
- (2) Hand the individual's medications to the individual. If the individual is unable to open the medication, the person may open the unit dose or medication organizer,

remove the medication from a medication organizer, and close the medication organizer for the individual.

(3) Assist an individual in consuming oral medication, including tablets, capsules, or liquid medication, by:
   a. Following the written instructions of the individual's designated representative or licensed healthcare professional for how to enable the individual to take his or her medication;
   b. Placing the dose in a container and placing the container to the mouth of the individual; or
   c. Placing the medication in the individual's hand or mouth.

(4) Steady or guide an individual's hand while applying ointments.

(c) Facilitating the self-administration of medication shall not include:

(1) Instilling eye, ear, or nasal drops;
(2) Mixing, compounding, converting, or calculating medication doses;
(3) The preparation of syringes for injection or the administration of medications by any injectable route;
(4) Administration of medications through intermittent positive pressure breathing machines or nebulizers;
(5) Administration of medications by way of a tube inserted into a cavity of the body;
(6) Administration of parenteral preparations;
(7) Administration of irrigations or debriding agents used in the treatment of a skin condition; or
(8) Administration of rectal, urethral, or vaginal preparations.

Determining Scope of Practice:

Advisory opinion statements are issued by the Kentucky Board of Nursing as a guideline to licensees who wish to engage in safe nursing practice. As such, an opinion statement is not a regulation of the Board and does not have the force and effect of law.

Approved: 4/2010