Nevada State Board of NURSING

School Nurse Regulation and Advisory Opinion

School Nurse Regulation

NAC 632.226 **Employment as school nurse: Duties; delegation of nursing care; requirements for administering medication to pupils. (**NRS 632.120**)**

1. A school nurse who is a registered nurse shall direct and provide school nursing services.

2. In carrying out a plan of nursing care for a pupil with special needs pursuant to NRS 391.208, a school nurse who a registered nurse may delegate nursing services to a qualified person.

3. A school nurse may delegate only those duties that the Board has approved. The Board will maintain a list of the duties it has approved for delegation and provide a copy of the list to a school nurse or member of the general public upon request.

4. A licensed practical nurse who is employed by a school district to provide nursing services in a school may not delegate nursing services or assign duties relating to such services to another person.

5. A school nurse shall develop safe and effective procedures for the administration of medication to pupils that comply with nationally recognized standards and the laws of this State.

6. A school nurse may not administer medication to a pupil or delegate that duty to another person unless:

(a) The school nurse has obtained written authorization from the parent or legal guardian of the pupil to administer the medication;

(b) The medication is labeled; and

(c) The school nurse verifies that the medication has been prescribed and dispensed by a person authorized to do so pursuant to chapter 453, 454 or 639 of NRS or the laws of another state or the District of Columbia.

7. A record of the medication administered to a pupil must be maintained at the school the pupil attends. Each time the school nurse or the person to whom he or she delegated the nursing services administers medication to the pupil, it must be indicated in the record.

8. As used in this section:

(a) "Qualified person" means a person who is:

(1) Certified or licensed by this State to provide nursing care to a pupil;

(2) Willing to provide nursing services to a pupil and who the school nurse has determined has the knowledge and skill to provide that nursing services to the pupil in a safe and effective manner; or

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, exempt from the requirement of obtaining a license to practice nursing pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 632.340 and whom the parent or legal guardian of the pupil designates as a person who may provide nursing services to the pupil. A parent or legal guardian may not designate a person who is employed by the school district in which the pupil attends school as a person who may provide nursing services to the pupil.

(b) "School nurse" means a licensee who is qualified as set forth in subsection 2 of NRS 391.207 and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto as a school nurse and who is serving in that capacity.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Nursing by R071-00, eff. 10-20-2000; A by R002-10, 8-13-2010; R112-11, 2-15-2012)

Nevada State Board of NURSING

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Nevada State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion

All students in public school districts deserve to have their health care needs met to enhance optimum learning. In addition, the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), mandates that all disabled children be provided an education in the least restrictive environment and the special health care needs of children shall be met. An increasing number of children with exceptional health care requirements are currently being mainstreamed into the school system. It is the Board of Nursing's recommendation that School Nurses should direct and/or provide school health services. School Districts need to arrange for adequate personnel to provide care.
The role, duty, responsibility, and employment of the school nurse, must comply with the Nurse Practice Act (NRS Chapter 632 and NAC 632) and NRS Chapter 391.207, 391.208, and 392.420.

The school nurse is responsible for developing, implementing, evaluating, and revising the individualized health care plan for each student with special health care needs under his/her supervision.

A. Input for the individualized health care plan is gathered from a multi-disciplinary health team to include, but not limited to, the following:
   1. The student's primary licensed health care provider
   2. The student's parent/guardian
   3. The student, when able to communicate
   4. Primary RN coordinating student's home care
   5. Social worker, if involved
   6. Designated school representative (per IDEA requirement)
   7. Student's teacher, school counselor and school psychologist
   8. Licensed nurses employed by the school district who provide care to the student
   9. Health care providers (example: Occupational or Physical Therapist, Vision Impaired Specialist, Hearing Impaired Specialist, Mental Health Counselor)

B. The individualized health care plan is based on the evaluation of a number of variables specific to each student and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

   1. The stability of the student's medical condition including diagnosis, symptomatology, special alerts, emergent factors and educational implications for the student. Consideration should be given to the questions, "can the student's stability change dramatically to life-threatening within a few minutes/seconds?"
   2. List of medications: type, dosage, interactions, toxicity, adverse reactions and route of administration the child receives, as prescribed by a qualified practitioner.
   3. Utilization of PRN medications and over the counter medications.
   4. The nature, frequency and complexity of prescribed treatments the child requires and assessment for PRN treatments.
   5. The complexity and acuteness of the observations and judgments the care giver must make.
   6. The specific student's ability to participate in the plan of care and communicate his/her needs to the caregiver.

7. Environment: To include physical plant and educational staff and alternate health care providers and any adaptations that are needed to accommodate the student because of the health care needs.
8. Level of preparation and experience of the designated direct care giver.

C. The individualized health care plan should include written policies and procedures addressing possible medical emergencies the student may experience while in the school setting. These policies and procedures should include:

1. Definition of a medical emergency for the specific student;
2. Designation of individuals to be notified when the emergency occurs;
3. Identification of person who will initiate and direct the action to be taken;
4. Specific action to be taken in this emergency;
5. Transport specifications (internal and external), who will provide it and to where; and
6. Format for documentation of actions taken in medical emergency.

D. Delegation

1. The School Nurse determines when it is appropriate to delegate or assign any portion of the provision of nursing services. This delegation/assignment must occur in accordance with the standards of practice outlined in the Nurse Practice Act and the guidelines of this Advisory Opinion.

2. The School Nurse is solely responsible for the determination of when it is appropriate to delegate or assign nursing services to a qualified person. A "qualified person" is:

    a. A person whose license/certification authorizes his/her practice; or
    b. A willing person whom the School Nurse has determined has acquired and/or maintained knowledge, skill and ability to perform the services in a safe and effective manner required by the child.

3. This definition precludes the automatic utilization of the office manager, secretary or teacher as a qualified person. Only the School Nurse may delegate or assign nursing services. The School Administrator cannot legally delegate or assign nursing services. A Licensed Practical Nurse providing nursing services in a school may not delegate or assign nursing services to school personnel.

4. A family member/friend, designated or identified by the student's parent or legal guardian, is exempt from the regulations of the Nurse Practice Act and, without delegation, training or supervision by the School Nurse, may perform required services for the student unless employed by the school district.

Developed: 01/90; Modified: 9/18/90 by Practice Committee; Modified: 9/22/90 by School Nurses; Modified: 01/91 after Superintendent's Meeting; Modified: 04/26/91 by Practice Committee; Approved: 06/13/91 by Practice Committee; Adopted: 12/6/91; Reviewed: 02/26/99; Revision Approved by Board: 5/14/99; Revised: 11/17/04, 3/16/05, 1/25/06; Revision Approved by Board: 7/19/06; Revision Approved by Board: 5/14/09; Revision Approved by Board: 3/18/10; Revision Approved by the NPAC: 2/4/14; Revision Approved by Board: 3/26/14; Revision Approved by NPAC 6/10/14; Revision Approved by the Board 7/16/14.

Nevada State Board of NURSING

Nursing Services	Qualified Person	Qualified Licensed Nurse
Delegation of nursing services; Development of protocols individualized student health care plan and emergency plan		School Nurse Only
Nasogastric feedings		X
Gastrostomy tube reinsertion/balloon inflation Gastrostomy feedings		X
Gastrostomy tube venting	Emergency only	X
Mechanical pump feedings		X
Clean intermittent catheterization	X	X
Indwelling catheter insertion		X
Sterile intermittent catheterization		X
Care of external equipment only (leg bags, straighten tubing, etc.)	X	X
Crede	X	X
Care of decubitus ulcer		X
Reinforce external dressings (underpads)	X	X
Phrenic nerve stimulator and diaphragmatic pacer		RN only
Vagal nerve stimulator	X	X
Postural drainage	X	X
Chest percussion	X	X
Oral suctioning w/ suction catheter or yankaur	Emergency	X
Light oral suctioning w/bulb	X	X
Tracheal suctioning, trach care & tube replacement	Emergency	X
Pulse Oximetry	X	X
Glucose and ketone testing -blood/urine	X	X

Nevada State Board of NURSING

Nursing Services	Qualified Person	Qualified Licensed Nurse
Colostomy/ileostomy/urostomy care		X
Emptying devices/skin care	X	X
Cast care	X	X
Mechanical ventilator		RN only
Intravenous therapy:		X
Intermittent		X
Continuous		X
Pump devices		X
Chemotherapy		RN only
Investigational drugs		RN only
Implanted devices		RN only
Central venous access devices		RN only
Screening procedure:		
Vision/hearing	X	X
Spinal screening		RN only
Dental screening	X	X
Lice screening	X	X
Rescreening/referral to licensed health care provider		X

Nevada State Board of NURSING

Medications

The Nevada State Board of Nursing recognizes the administration/assistance with medication is an issue of primary concern in school districts. School nurses/School Districts are referred to the State Board of Pharmacy to work out a suitable mechanism for the accomplishment of this task. Any medication procedure developed must meet the standard requirement for the safe administration/assistance of medications.

Medication	**Qualified Person**	**Qualified Licensed Nurse**
Oxygen, continuous/intermittent	X	X
Oxygen, adjust nasal prongs	X	X
Oral	X	X
Topical therapeutic	X	X
Injections, unless otherwise specified		X
Automatic devices for fixed dosage injection	X	X
Administration of glucagon injection kit in emergent situation	X	X
Calculation of insulin dosage via pump, pen, or syringe for student self-administration	X	X
Verification of insulin dosage via pump, pen, or syringe for student self-administration	X	X
Administration of insulin: In order for the school nurse to delegate to an unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) the school nurse must first develop a written, individualized student health plan and be available at all times to provide consultation to the UAP	X	X
Inhalation	X	X
Bladder		RN only
Rectal		X
Nasogastric or gastrostomy tube		X