

Alaska State Board of Nursing  
**General** Advisory Opinions

Explanatory Statement about Advisory Opinions

An advisory opinion adopted by the Alaska Board of Nursing is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion the Alaska Board of Nursing regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the health and safety of the Alaska healthcare consumer. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure safety of their patient.

Topic	Opinion	Interested Party	Date
<b>12 hour shift</b>	The Board of nursing does not handle this issue unless patient safety is impacted. If there is a patient safety issue, the nurse should note specific examples and document the occurrences.		July-03
<b>Assisting with Insulin delivery</b> Assistance in dialing a dose of insulin for a sightless person	The Board of Nursing states that in the specific circumstances where a blind person is receiving insulin and is unable to personally verify the does, it is permissible that the competent blind person may request and receive assistance to dial in the dose on an insulin pen from anyone, and then the blind person may self-administer the insulin injection	J. Keenan Casteel, PhD, RN	October-13
<b>Christian Science Nurse</b>	Resolved that the BON for the State of Alaska upholds the former positions, reiterating that we do not allow the use of the title "nurse" by persons who are not licensed under 08.68		June-07

<p><b>Christian Science Nurse use of title "nurse" by the Christian Science Church</b></p>	<p>On September 3, 2013, Assistant Attorney General Michael C. Geraghty wrote a letter to Beverly Smith, Christian Science Committee on Publication in Alaska stating the "Board's position is supported by tend consistent with, Alaska Statues regulating the practice of nursing. Just as it is a class B misdemeanor for person to employ "as a nurse" a person who is not licensed to practice nursing (AS 08.68.340(a)(3), it is similarly illegal for a person to use in connection with the person's name a designation that implies the person is a licensed nurse unless the person actually is licensed (AS 08.68.340(a)(4).</p>		<p>September-13</p>
<p><b>Dept of Corrections resident's own medications</b> Labeling and use of resident's own medication in corrections facility</p>	<p>Refer to pharmacist.</p>	<p>Sara Harvison, Division of Juvenile Justice</p>	<p>September-05</p>
<p><b>EMT/paramedic students RNs role when IV medications are involved</b> Registered Nurse delegation of IV medication administration to EMT or paramedic student</p>	<p>It is outside the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse to delegate the administration of IV medications to a paramedic or EMT student.</p>	<p>UA paramedic program and Registered Nurse inquiry</p>	<p>September-05</p>

<b>Executive Administrator</b> position requirements	In a motion, the Board requires applicants for the Board of Nursing Executive Administrator position to have a minimum of 5 years of professional RN experience that may include public health, health care, health care delivery systems or an administrative, consultative, or teaching capacity and to hold an minimum of a Master's Degree in Nursing.	Board of Nursing	October-14
<b>Homeopathic remedies</b>	Administering homeopathic remedies is not within a nurse's scope of practice.	Reaffirming earlier position after a request that the board reconsider its position.	March-99
<b>Mandatory Overtime</b>	Board RESOLVED to adopt the following advisory opinion; The Alaska Board of Nursing along with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing promotes safe and effective nursing practice in the interest of protecting public health and welfare. Therefore, the AK BON recognizes the professional responsibility of nurses to accept or decline overtime assignments based on their self-assessment of ability to provide safe care.		March-02
<b>Medisets/medipacks---</b> Repackaging medications into medisets or blister medi-packs is within the scope	Fits the definition of medication administration, an inherent nursing function. It is not relabeling or rebranding.	Response to request from K. Kaihoi, RPh	June-97
<b>Nitrous Oxide administration by RN for a Pediatric Patient</b>	On a motion duly made by Tom Hendrix , seconded by Jennie Grimwood, and carried unanimously with 6 ayes, it was RESOLVED that the Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska, approves the educational program for RN administered Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen in the pediatric patient at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. The proposal is approved with an amendment noting administration of a maximum 60% concentration of Nitrous	Debra Booyesen, RN, Fairbanks memorial Hosital	January-15

<b>Nitrous Oxide administration by RN for a Pediatric Patient</b>	The intent of this motion (above) is not to be restrictive based on either sign or symptom or specific procedure.	Debra Booyesen, RN, Fairbanks memorial Hosital	April-15
<b>Non-FDA approved remedies</b>	Administering remedies that are not FDA approved is outside a nurse's scope of practice.		December-98
<b>OTC- over the counter medications</b>	No regulatory mechanism is in place regarding over the counter medication administration by nurses licensed in Alaska, and any licensed nurse doing so is not protected by law. Board supports the school district's current policies and procedures on medication administration.	Anchorage School District	March-95
<b>Precepting EMT/paramedic students</b> Registered Nurse precepting of EMT and paramedic students	A letter will be sent to the Board of Medicine with a request to remove "registered nurse" from 12 AAC 40.325(1) where they are named as trainers for EMTs in the BOM regulations.		December-04
<b>Precepting EMT/Paramedic students by RNs</b> EMT and paramedic student	The Board supports the education of paramedics and feels that nurses should be involved in their education. The paramedic student qualifies as a UAP and those regulations are defined in 12 AAC 44.950 through 990, which limit delegating invasive procedures and medication administration. The Board	Chuck Kuhns, UAF	December-04

**RN not on Duty-**  
responsibility for  
medications when  
nurse is not on  
duty

The board determined that nurses licensed in Alaska are not responsible for the administration of any medications when they are not on duty.

Department of Corrections

March-95

revised January  
2015