

Alaska State Board of Nursing  
**LPN** 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.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Interested Party</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Chemotherapy</b>	Chemotherapy is outside the scope of practice for Licensed Practical Nurse	Deborah Fox	August-01
<b>Department of Corrections Inmate Health Form 807</b>	The Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska has determined that LPN may complete the Department of Corrections Inmate Health form 807.14A revised 11/2010 pg. 1-3 with the exception of the mini CIWA portion. An RN or health care provider needs to review and sign the form within 24 hours of intake.	Alaska Division of Corrections Stacy Cox, RN Nursing Supervisor at the Fairbanks Correctional Center	April-07
<b>Department of Corrections Inmate Health Form 807</b>	RESOLVED that the Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska allows LPN to complete the Department of Corrections Inmate Health Form 807.14B revised 11/2010. An RN or health care provider needs to review & sign the form within 24 hours of intake.	Alaska Division of Corrections Joyce DeGroot, RN	July-07
<b>Dispensing medications</b>	Dispensing medications is not within the scope of practice of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse in Alaska	Alaska Native Medical Center	March-95
<b>Groshong Flush Groshong catheters or PICC lines</b>	A licensed practical nurse may not flush Groshong catheters or PICC lines with normal saline.	Providence Kodiak Home Care Agency	September-97

<b>IV administration by LPNs</b>	BON approved the LPN intravenous course proposed by Chief Andrew Issac Health Center. LPNs who complete the course including competency checks can start Ivs on patients over the age of 12.	Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center	January-15
<b>Intravenous medications.</b>	The administration of intravenous medications is not a task that can be delegated by a registered nurse to a licensed practical nurse. Delegating intravenous medication administration to a licensed practical nurse is considered unprofessional conduct unless the LPN has an IV course that includes clinical and theory and then demonstrates competence after course.	dialysis clinic	September-99
<b>Licensed Practical Nurse scope of practice</b>	The Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska clarified that: 1. It is outside the LPN scope of practice to identify unlabeled medications. 2. It is outside the LPN scope of practice to do intake assessments on those entering into correctional facilities.	Alaska Division of Corrections	October-05
<b>LPN scope of Practice in Residential Detox Centers</b>	The Board reiterated regulation 12AAC 44.990 which states that LPNs are only to perform focused assessments. It is not within the scope of practice for LPNs to perform initial assessments on detox patients. For more details see the October 2012 Board Meeting minutes page 10.	Alaska Division of Behavioral Health John Williams, RN	October-08
<b>LPN scope of practice in schools</b>	An LPN may not work independently as a school nurse.	Response to letter from Geis, RN with copy to Fairbanks School District	March-01

<b>Medset-Filling medisets</b>	Repackaging dispensed medications is "administration", and within the scope of traditional nursing practice, including LPNs. This decision overturns the Board's decision of December 2001 and March 2002 stating that pre-filling medisets was dispensing and outside the scope of practice for Licensed Practical Nurse.		August-98
<b>School nursing</b> Independent work in school	A licensed practical nurse may not work independently as a school nurse.	Response to letter from Geis, RN, with copy to Fairbanks School District	February-97
<b>Suprapubic Catheter</b>	RESOLVED that the Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska finds that it is within the RN and LPN scope of practice to change suprapubic catheters with a healthcare provider's order after receiving additional training from a healthcare provider.	Janna Gilder, RN OPC Manager from Norton Sound Health Corporation	October-08
<b>Triage</b>	Triage patient assessments are outside the scope of practice for the LPN.	Phyllis Boskofsky, RN, Maniilaq Health Center, Kotzebue	May-98
<b>X-RAYS-LPNs may not take X-rays</b>	The Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska , has determined it is beyond the scope of practice for an ANP, RN, LPN, or CNA to perform x-rays and radiological procedures involving the use of contrast media, use of fluoroscopic equipment, mammography, tomography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), bone densitometry using ionizing radiation, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, or computed tomography imaging (CT scan).		April-06

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