



Scope of Practice

The following information is provided to guide public health nursing practice for Department of Health (Department) county health departments (CHD).

Definition of Public Health Nursing

- Public health nursing practice focuses on population health through continuous surveillance and assessment of the multiple determinants of health with the intent to promote health and wellness; prevent disease, disability, and premature death; and improve neighborhood quality of life. These population health priorities are addressed through identification, implementation, and evaluation of universal and targeted evidence-based programs and services that provide primary, secondary, and tertiary preventive interventions. Public health nursing practice emphasizes primary prevention with the goal of achieving health equity. (American Nurses Association (2013), *Public Health Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*, 2nd edition, Silver Springs, Maryland: www.Nursesbooks.org)

Personnel of County Health Departments

- Section 154.04, Florida Statutes (http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0100-0199/0154/Sections/0154.04.html)
- A registered nurse or licensed physician assistant working in a CHD is authorized to assess a patient and order medications, provided that:
 - No licensed physician is on the premises;
 - The patient is assessed and medication ordered in accordance with rules promulgated by the department and pursuant to a protocol approved by a physician who supervises the patient care activities of the registered nurse or licensed physician assistant;
 - The patient is being assessed by the registered nurse or licensed physician assistant as a part of a program approved by the department; and
 - The medication ordered appears on a formulary approved by the department and is prepackaged and prelabeled with dosage instructions and distributed from a source authorized under chapter 499 to repackage and distribute drugs, which source is under the supervision of a consultant pharmacist employed by the department. (Source: Chapter 499, Florida Statutes http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0499/0499ContentsIndex.html)



- Each CHD shall adopt written protocols which provide for supervision of the registered nurse or licensed physician assistant by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459 and for the procedures by which patients may be assessed, and medications ordered and delivered, by the registered nurse or licensed physician assistant. Such protocols shall be signed by the supervising physician, the director of the county health department, and the registered nurse or licensed physician assistant.
- A copy of these protocols shall be maintained in the registered nurse or licensed physician assistant's personnel record at the CHD.

Florida Nurse Practice Act and Rules of the Board of Nursing

- Chapter 464, Florida Statutes is the Florida Nurse Practice Act
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0464/0464PartIContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2017&Title=%2D%3E2017%2D%3EChapter%20464%2D%3EPart%20I
- Florida Administrative Code Rule 64B9-1 through 64B9-16
<https://www.flrules.org/>
- Located on Board of Nursing website at <http://floridasnursing.gov/resources/>

Physicians Assistants (PA) Practice Protocols

- Source: Section 458.347, Florida Statutes, is the Regulation of Physician Assistants
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0458/Sections/0458.347.html
- Florida Administrative Code Rule 64B8-3
<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=64B8-30>
- A supervising physician shall delegate only tasks and procedures to the physician assistant which are within the supervising physician's scope of practice. Furthermore, the supervising physician must be certain that the physician assistant is knowledgeable and skilled in performing the tasks and procedures assigned.

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP) Practice Protocols

- Source: Chapter 464, Florida Statutes is the Florida Nurse Practice Act
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0464/0464PartIContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2017&Title=%2D%3E2017%2D%3EChapter%20464%2D%3EPart%20I



- Source: House Bill 543 became effective June 23, 2017
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=57169>
 - This bill requires that an established protocol be maintained at the location or locations at which the ARNP practices. It also removes the requirement that the Board of Nursing review protocols.
- ARNPs must practice within the limits of their approved, written and signed protocols for collaborating practice agreements between the ARNP and a Florida-licensed physician. ARNPs may have authority within their approved medical protocols to dispense certain drugs.
- A copy of these protocols shall be maintained in the ARNP's personnel record at the CHD.

Registered Nurse (RN)

- Source: Chapter 464, Florida Statutes is the Florida Nurse Practice Act
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0464/0464PartIContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2017&Title=%2D%3E2017%2D%3EChapter%20464%2D%3EPart%20I
- Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-6.024(1)
https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?title=SPECIAL_PROGRAMS_I&ID=6A-6.024
- "Practice of professional nursing" means the performance of those acts requiring substantial specialized knowledge, judgment, and nursing skill based upon applied principles of psychological, biological, physical, and social sciences which shall include, but not be limited to:
 - (a) The observation, assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, intervention, and evaluation of care; health teaching and counseling of the ill, injured, or infirm; and the promotion of wellness, maintenance of health, and prevention of illness of others.
 - (b) The administration of medications and treatments as prescribed or authorized by a duly licensed practitioner authorized by the laws of this state to prescribe such medications and treatments.
 - (c) The supervision and teaching of other personnel in the theory and performance of any of the acts described in this subsection.
- School health physical examinations - Any health professional who is licensed in Florida or in the state where the student resided at the time of the health examination and who is authorized to perform a general health examination under such licensure shall be acceptable to certify that health examinations have been completed. CHD should check with school board to determine acceptable health professionals.



Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

- Source: Chapter 464, Florida Statutes is the Florida Nurse Practice Act
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0464/0464PartIContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2017&Title=%2D%3E2017%2D%3EChapter%20464%2D%3EPart%20I
- Source: DOHP 395-1-12, Public Health Pharmacy Policies and Procedures for CHDs provides guidance:
https://floridahealth.sharepoint.com/sites/EMERGENCYPREPAREDNESS/Policies/DOHP_395-1-12_Public%20Health%20Pharmacy%20PP%20for%20CHDs.pdf
- “Practice of practical nursing” means the performance of selected acts, including the administration of treatments and medications, in the care of the ill, injured, or infirm; the promotion of wellness, maintenance of health, and prevention of illness of others under the direction of a registered nurse, a licensed physician, a licensed osteopathic physician, a licensed podiatric physician, or a licensed dentist; and the teaching of general principles of health and wellness to the public and to students other than nursing students. A practical nurse is responsible and accountable for making decisions that are based upon the individual’s educational preparation and experience in nursing.
- The definition for “practice of practical nursing” does not include a nursing assessment. The RN may delegate portions of the nursing assessment to the LPN as appropriate for their level of skill and ability, e.g. vital signs, weights and measures.
- A LPN cannot provide unsupervised nurse issuance when a physician, ARNP/RN or PA are not on the premises.

Medical Assistant (MA)

- Source: Section 458.3485, Florida Statutes
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0458/Sections/0458.3485.html
- A medical assistant is not a licensed profession. A MA is a professionally multi-skilled person who assists in limited aspects of medical practice under the direct supervision and responsibility of a physician. These limited tasks include assisting with: patient care management, administrative and clinical procedures, and managerial and supervisory functions. Competence in the field also requires that a medical assistant adhere to ethical and legal standards of professional practice, recognize and respond to emergencies,



and demonstrate professional characteristics. Under the direct supervision and responsibility of a licensed physician, a medical assistant may undertake the following duties:

- Performing Clinical Procedures, to include:
 - Performing aseptic procedures.
 - Taking vital signs.
 - Preparing patients for the physician's care.
 - Performing venipunctures and non-intravenous injections.
 - Observing and reporting patients' signs or symptoms.
- Administering basic first aid.
- Assisting with patient examination or treatments.
- Operating office medical equipment.
- Collecting routine laboratory specimens as directed by the physician.
- Administering medication as directed by the physician.
- Performing basic laboratory procedures.
- Performing office procedures including all general administrative duties required by the physician.
- Performing dialysis procedures, including home dialysis.
- Medicare defines direct supervision as "In the physician office, the supervising physician must be in the office suite and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the procedure's performance."
(<https://www.aapc.com/blog/26162-understand-medicare-physician-supervision-requirements/>)
- An ARNP or RN cannot supervise a medical assistant.

Nurse Issuance

- Source: DOHP 395-1, Public Health Pharmacy Policies and Procedures for CHDs provides guidance:
https://floridahealth.sharepoint.com/sites/EMERGENCYPREPAREDNESS/Policies/DOHP_395-1-12_Public%20Health%20Pharmacy%20PP%20for%20CHDs.pdf
- A registered nurse is permitted, by written protocol, to perform patient assessments, order, and issue (not dispense) medications when certain conditions exist. This is usually done when there is no physician on the premises. Condition requires written medical protocols and compliance with an approved Department issuance formulary (section 154.04, Florida Statutes)
- The list of medications is approved by the Department of Health Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and State Surgeon General.
- A registered nurse or licensed physician assistant may issue medications approved from this list, representing the written protocol of a licensed



physician. The protocols shall be reviewed at least every three years and each time there is a change in supervision physician and/or CHD Director/Administrator.

- Repackaged pharmaceuticals used in the Nurse Issuance Program must be procured from the Central Pharmacy.
- The repackaged drug products at the Central Pharmacy are primarily intended for use in the Nurse Issuance Program. They may also be used as starter packs for program drugs (e.g., Family Planning, Insulin, TB, STD) to cover the time interval between the submission of a prescription the Central Pharmacy for filling and the prescription's arrival at the CHD. Repackaged medication from the Central Pharmacy should not be used for the continued filling of a client's prescription(s).

Credentialed Nurse

- Source: IOP 180-3-15, Credentialing Professional Registered Nurses to Perform Nursing Health Assessments (https://floridahealth.sharepoint.com/sites/COUNTYHEALTHSYSTEMS/Policies/IOP%20180-3_CredPRNPerfNHA.pdf) and DOHP 180-3-15, Credentialing Professional Registered Nurses to Perform Health Assessments (https://floridahealth.sharepoint.com/sites/COUNTYHEALTHSYSTEMS/Policies/DOHP%20180-3_CredPRNPerfNHA.pdf)
- A credentialed registered nurse in the CHD has advanced their scope of practice to perform nursing health assessments for adult health screenings, and Child Health Check-Up screenings. The RN will complete health assessments under the supervision of high-level practitioners through yearly credentialing based on annual performance evaluations that certify continued competence in nursing health assessment.
- The medical record of a credentialed RN must be signed by the supervising physician if requested by the third party payer.
- For [Credentialing of a Sexually Transmitted Disease \(STD\) Registered Nurse](#), refer to IOP 360-22.

Standard of Care Protocols (RN Protocols)

- Developed by categorical programs as guideline for provision of CHD RN services under **indirect** physician supervision for billable Medicaid encounters. Conditions require specific guidelines, signature and annual review.
- Protocols must be signed and dated by supervising physician, CHD Director/Administrator, nursing director and registered nurse working under



the protocol. A copy of these protocols shall be maintained in the registered nurse's personnel record at the CHD.

- RNs working under RN protocols do not need their patients' medical records signed by the supervising physician.
- LPNs cannot practice under RN protocols.

Medicaid Guidelines

- Source: Florida Administrative Code Rule 59G-1.010
http://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/review/General/59G_1010_Definitions.pdf
- Supervision means directing and being fully legally responsible for the actions of another person.
- Direct supervision means face-to-face supervision during the time the services are being furnished.
- Personal supervision means that the services are furnished while the supervising practitioner is in the building and that the supervising practitioner signs and dates the medical records (chart) within 24 hours of the provision of the service.
- Indirect physician supervision means services rendered by an RN must be under indirect physician supervision. The supervising physician must be available at all times in person or by direct telecommunication.
- Services provided by a RN when working under protocol may be reimbursed by Medicaid. The CHD bills with its clinic services group provider number. The supervising physician's provider number must be entered in item 24J on the CMS-1500 claim form.
- Reimbursable services rendered by a LPN are limited to immunizations. Other services are not reimbursable even when cosigned by a higher level licensed health care professional.

Medicaid Managed Care Plans

- Source: AHCA Contract No. FP####, Attachment II, Exhibit II-A, Effective 06/01/07, Pages 59-60
[http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/statewide_mc/pdf/Contracts/2017-06-01/EXHIBIT II-A Managed Medical Assistance \(MMA\) Program 2017-06-01.pdf](http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/statewide_mc/pdf/Contracts/2017-06-01/EXHIBIT II-A Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) Program 2017-06-01.pdf)
- The Managed Care Plan shall authorize all claims from a CHD, a migrant health center funded in Section 329 of the Public Health Services Act or a community health center funded under Section 330 of the Public Health Services Act, without prior authorization for the services listed below.



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- The diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and other reportable infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and HIV;
- The provision of immunizations;
- Family planning services and related pharmaceuticals;
- School health services listed in a, b, and c above [CHDs, migrant health center or community health center], and for the services rendered on an urgent basis by such provisions; and
- In the event that a vaccine preventable disease emergency is declared, the Managed Care Plan shall authorize claims from the CHD for the cost of the administration of vaccines.

Signature and Effective Date:

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