

TENNESSEE BOARD OF NURSING POSITION STATEMENT

RE PRACTICE: Licensed Practical Nurse's Role in an Outpatient End Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Setting

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Tennessee, clarify LPN scope of practice in the end stage renal disease dialysis setting and the responsibility of the RN for LPN supervision in this setting.

AUTHORITY: Tennessee Code Annotated 63-7-103 "Practice of Professional Nursing Defined (a) (1) "Practice of professional nursing" means the performance for compensation of any act requiring substantial specialized judgment and skill based on knowledge of the natural, behavioral and nursing sciences, and the humanities, as the basis for application of the nursing process in wellness and illness care.

Tennessee Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations for Registered Nurses 1000-1-.13 UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND NEGLIGENCE, HABITS OR OTHER CAUSE. (1) Unprofessional conduct, unfitness, or incompetency by reasons of negligence, habits or other causes, as those terms are used in the statute, is defined as, but not limited to, the following: (m) Failing to supervise persons to whom nursing functions are delegated or assigned;

POSITION STATEMENT: It is the position of the Tennessee Board of Nursing that a licensed practical nurse, deemed competent, be allowed to give certain intravenous push medications in End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) outpatient settings where they are directly supervised by a registered nurse and that registered nurse is immediately available in the dialysis facility. For purposes of outpatient renal dialysis, the dialysis circuit is considered a peripheral line. Competency, obtained through appropriate coursework, must be documented in the employee's personnel record. Medications that may be administered by the competent LPN include: drugs that are legally permitted, recombinant human erythropoietins, Vitamin D analogs, anticoagulants, 0.9% sodium chloride and iron.

This policy applies only to practice in the licensed outpatient ESRD dialysis setting under the direct supervision of RN. The supervising RN is accountable and responsible for the delegation of this treatment.

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