May 14, 2015

To: Massachusetts Nursing and Professional Healthcare Organizations

From: Laurie Talarico, MS, RN, CNP Nursing Practice Coordinator

Re: Revised Advisory Ruling 9204: Infusion Therapy

At the May 13, 2015 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board issued revisions to Advisory Ruling 9204: *Infusion Therapy* to ensure compliance with current statutes, regulations and scope of practice standards.

The Advisory Ruling guides Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses whose practice may include infusion therapy through vascular or intra-osseous access.

The revisions include:

- A Board approved standardized reference requiring licensee compliance with all nursing licensure and practice laws and regulations
- Updated educational criteria as listed in Infusion Nurses Society October 2013 position paper *Recommendations for Improving Safety Practices with Short Peripheral Catheters* that is comprehensive and includes:
  - Pre-insertion assessment and placement
  - Ongoing assessment and monitoring of indwelling catheter
  - Infection prevention and Standard Precautions
  - Identification, prevention, and management of complications
  - Patient/caregiver education
  - Removal of catheter
  - Documentation
  - Surveillance/quality improvement/outcomes
  - Use of adjunct aids such as ultrasound for vein identification and selection when applicable
A statement defining the role of the nurse in a management role as one that must ensure the availability of sufficient resources to provide for safe implementation, including, but not limited to organizational policies that provide for:

- Protocols for requiring and providing appropriate infusion therapy education
- Protocols for assessing and documenting the education received and validation for RN and LPN initial and continued competency for each activity
- Nursing care responsibilities, including, but not limited to patient assessment, monitoring, medication administration, potential complications, and documentation criteria
- Emergency protocols including, but not limited to, immediate, on site availability of emergency equipment, medications and personnel

Updated references

Please take a moment to review the entire Advisory Ruling 9204.