



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Division of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration in Nursing
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

Tel: 617-973-0900
TTY : 617-973-0988

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn>

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

March 9, 2016

To: Massachusetts Nursing and Professional Healthcare Organizations

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

Re: Revised Advisory Ruling 9802: Licensed Practical Nurse Charge Nurses/Nurse Supervisors

At the March 9, 2016 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board revised Advisory Ruling (AR) 9802: *Licensed Practical Nurse Charge Nurses/Nurse Supervisors* to ensure compliance with current statutes, regulations and scope of practice standards.

The AR guides the practice of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) employed or assigned to function as charge nurse, supervisor, or other similar role regardless of title.

AR 9802: *Licensed Practical Nurse Charge Nurses/Nurse Supervisors* revisions:

1. Clarify that charge nurse or supervisory role directs nursing service personnel to comply with the employing agency's policies and procedures and is not inclusive of supervision of another nurse's clinical practice
2. Note that all nurses are responsible and accountable for their nursing assessments, judgments, actions, and competency
3. Incorporate the definition of "delegation" at 244 CMR 3.05, clarifying that the delegation of selected nursing activities by a RN or LPN is a tool which the licensed nurses may use to effectively provide safe patient care; occurs after the nurse receives a patient care assignment; and is based on the nurse's clinical decision-making
4. Note that neither LPNs nor RNs delegate nursing activities to other licensed nurses
5. Include a standardized statement requiring licensee compliance with all nursing licensure and practice laws and regulations

Please take a moment to review the entire [Advisory Ruling 9802](#).