

# Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing

## Advisory Ruling on Nursing Practice

**Title:** Medication Administration of Over the Counter Drugs

**Advisory Ruling Number:** 92-05

**Date Issued:** 6/13/92

**Date Revised:** 7/10/2002, 9/08/2021

**Authority:**

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) is created and authorized by Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) c. 13, §§ 13, 14, 14A, 15 and 15D, and G.L. c. 112, §§ 74 through 81C to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth through the regulation of nursing practice and education. In addition, M.G.L. c.30A, § 8 authorizes the Board to make advisory rulings with respect to the applicability to any person, property or state of facts of any statute or regulation enforced or administered by the Board. Each nurse is required to practice in accordance with accepted standards of practice and is responsible and accountable for his or her nursing judgments, actions, and competency. The Board's regulation at 244 CMR 9.03(6) requires all nurses to comply with any other law and regulation related to licensure and practice.

**Scope of Practice:** Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

**Purpose:**

To guide the practice of the Registered Nurse (RN) who is employed in the role of School Nurse in MA public and private schools in developing over-the-counter (OTC) medication administration protocols and to define the scope of practice for OTC medication administration by RNs and LPNs.

**Advisory:**

It is the Board's position that School Nurses may develop protocols for the administration of OTC medications according to the criteria for standing orders/protocols outlined in Advisory Ruling # 9324 Accepting, Verifying, Transcribing and Implementing Prescriber Orders.

Licensed nurses may administer OTCs based on individual orders or on protocols with written authorization by an authorized prescriber.

The licensed nurse will engage in the practice of nursing in accordance with accepted professional standards pursuant to 244 CMR 3.00. The licensed nurse must acquire and maintain necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities before

**AR 92-05: Medication Administration of Over -the-Counter Drugs in the School Setting**

assuming duties and responsibilities for administering over-the-counter medication as described herein.

School Nurses will follow regulations pursuant to 105 CMR 210 Administration of Prescription Medications in Public and Private Schools, the training objectives contained in MA DPH SHIELD (School Health Institute for Education, Leadership Development). Administration of Medication by delegation: Role and Responsibility of the Teacher Training Manual and 603 CMR 7.00 MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: Education Laws and Regulations.

#### References:

Code of Massachusetts Regulations 105 CMR 210 The administration of prescription medications in public and private schools. Retrieved at [105 CMR 210.00: The administration of prescription medications in public and private schools | Mass.gov](#)

Code of Massachusetts Regulations 244 CMR 3.00 Registered and Licensed Practical Nurse. Retrieved at [244 CMR 3.00: Registered nurse and licensed practical nurse | Mass.gov](#)

Code of Massachusetts Regulations 244 CMR 9.00 Standards of Conduct. Retrieved at [244 CMR 9.00: Standards of conduct for nurses | Mass.gov](#)

MA Board of Registration in Nursing (2018). Advisory Ruling # 9324 Accepting, Verifying, Transcribing and Implementing Prescriber Orders. Retrieved at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ar-9324-accepting-verifying-transcribing-and-implementing-medication-orders/download>

MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Education Laws and Regulations. 603 CMR 7.11 2 (a), (b). Retrieved at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr7.html?section=11>

MA Department of Public Health School Health Unit. Shield. School Health Institute for Education and Leadership. (10/2/2017). Administration of medication by delegation: role and responsibility of the teacher. Retrieved at [GUIDELINES FOR APPROVING APPLICATIONS TO REGISTER FOR FULL DELEGATION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS TO UNLICENSED PERSONNEL \(d2rw76b9nsxu2w.cloudfront.net\)](#)

MA General Law Title XII, c.71 §54B. Administration of medications in school settings. Retrieved at [General Law - Part I, Title XII, Chapter 71, Section 54B \(malegislature.gov\)](#).