

Alaska Board of Nursing
 Advisory Opinions
 Delegation
 Unlicensed Assistive Personnel

	Explanatory statement about Advisory Opinions		An advisory opinion adopted by the Alaska Board of Nursing is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion the Alaska Board of Nursing regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the health and safety of the Alaska healthcare consumer. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure safety of their patient.
Date	Topic	Interested Party	Opinion
1992	Insulin administration		Insulin administration is a delegable task if the patient's condition is chronic, stable, and the task is repetitious - REPEALED OCTOBER 2004 WITH 12 AAC 44.970(13).
November-93	delegation to UAP		Adopt the position statement on Unlicensed Assistive Personnel. SEE OCTOBER 2004, 12 AAC 44.950-975.
December-94	UAP		Letter to all licensed Health Care Facilities to reiterates the board support of the position statement on activities on unlicensed assistive personnel, which was adopted on November 1993. The Position Statement is very clear and not intended for each facility's interpretation. It's not open for interpretation. It clarifies the intent of this position statement to all licensed Health Care Facilities. SEE REVISION OCTOBER 2004, 12 AAC 44.950-975.
June-95	Assisted Living Homes		Adopt the Position Statement to read: <i>Delegation by Nurses of Nursing Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Staff of Assistive Living Homes</i> and be effective June 2, 1995. SEE REVISION OCTOBER 2004, 12 AAC 44.950-975.

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June-96	delegation to UAP		reaffirms Position Statement: Delegation to UAP adopted November 1993. SEE REVISION OCTOBER 2004, 12 AAC 44.950-975.
June-98	Insulin administration		Reaffirming earlier position found in position statement: Insulin administration is a delegable task if patient's condition is chronic, stable and the task is repetitious. REPEALED OCTOBER 2004 WITH 12 AAC 44.970(13)
March-99	Crushing, measuring and calculating medications	Alaska Pioneer Homes	Crushing, measuring and calculating medications cannot be delegated. Reaffirming conclusion in 1993 position statement "Activities of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel" after a request from Pioneer's Home for board opinion. SEE REVISION OCTOBER 2004, 12 AAC 44.950-975.
March-01	injections administered by school staff who are not licensed nurses	Sarah Mattson	Unlicensed school personnel cannot give injections of stated medication as this is against the Nurse Practice Act. (see AS 08.01.102 Citation for unlicensed practice or activity). SEE OCTOBER 2004, 12 AAC 44.950-975.
May-01	tracheostomy suctioning		A registered nurse may delegate a procedure such as tracheostomy suctioning to an unlicensed assistive person if tracheostomy is established and the situation is appropriate for delegating, i.e. it is repetitive performance of a common task and does not require professional judgment of a nurse. REPEALED OCTOBER 2004, 12 AAC 44.960.

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December-03	PRN medications, including controlled substances and sliding scale insulin	Our House Assisted Living Home Administrator and Richard Clinch at the Division of Senior Services	Administering PRN medications, including controlled substances, are not delegable tasks. SEE REVISION OCTOBER 2004, 12 AAC 44.950-975.
October-04	delegation of medication administration to UAPs		Adopted 12 AAC 44.950-975
September-05	epi pen	Sara Harvison, Division of Juvenile Justice	Use of epi-pen by UAP is permitted in an emergency situation if staff is trained to use this as first aid. See 12 AAC 44.955 (a)(2-5).
September-05	vital signs	Sara Harvison, Division of Juvenile Justice	vital signs on admit done by UAP is data collection only and must be reported to Registered Nurse (12 AAC 44.955(b)(2))
September-05	PRN controlled substances	Sara Harvison, Division of Juvenile Justice	Controlled substance medication administered PRN by UAP; typically for dental or orthodontic procedures. RN may NOT do telephonic interview with client to authorize administration of controlled substance. According to 12AAC 44.965(e), a nurse must be present. Administration of controlled substances cannot be delegated.
September-05	PRN controlled substances	assisted living homes	See 12 AAC 44.965, which does not allow the delegation of the administration of controlled substances .

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June-07	PRN controlled substances	LaVon Ausman, RN, Division of Juvenile Justice, State of Alaska	RN Ausman requests the Board make exemption to 12 AAC 44.965 (e) to allow DJO staff to administer controlled substances to youths in the facilities on a PRN basis. The board cannot make exception to the law.
June-07	90 day evaluation after delegation	LaVon Ausman, RN, Division of Juvenile Justice, State of Alaska	RN Ausman requests that the DJJ be allowed to perform the evaluation required in 12 AAC 44.960 (c) on an annual basis, rather than every 90 days. The Board made several suggestions for implementing the existing regulation effectively and cannot make exemption to DJJ for this regulation.
June-07	Feeding/Dining Assistants program approval	Belle Cunningham, LPN and Jody Howorth, RN	The Board reviewed a course outline from Providence Alaska Medical Center, Continuing Care Service. It was determined that the Board of Nursing does not regulate personal care technicians and it is therefore not within the Board's jurisdiction to make a statement concerning this course.
June-07	Training Course for UAPs administering medications in schools	Fairbanks North Star Borough School District	After review and discussion, the Board expressed many concerns about the contents of the course and the delegation of PRN controlled substances to UAPs. Controlled substances cannot be delegated to an UAP per 12 AAC 44.955(3). Nancy Sanders, PhD, RN, Executive Administrator will communicate these concerns in a letter to the School District.
September-07	delegation of controlled substance administration	Barbara Mistler, MatSu Regional Home Care and Hospice	The Board reviewed the presented clinical scenario as well as past advisory opinions from 1994-1996, 2005 and 2007. The Board advised RN Mistler that in accordance with 12 AAC 44.965, administration of controlled substances that were <u>routinely scheduled</u> would be a delegatable nursing duty, under the conditions specified in that regulation section.

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September-07	90 day evaluation after delegation	Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation	<p>The Board adopts the following procedure related to YKHC, to comply with 12 AAC 44.960(c) “The delegating nurse ...must perform an evaluation on-site at least once every 90 days after the delegation is made.” includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If on-site evaluation is not possible due to distance and/or logistics, the delegating nurse may administer performance evaluation of the delegation of medications, utilizing distance administered competency methods. This must be done every 90 days. 2. The competency evaluation should be administered immediately prior to the delegated medication administration. 3. There must be a face-to-face evaluation of skills annually between the delegating nurse and the UAP. 4. All other conditions in 12 AAC 44.960(c) must be met.
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