

Alaska Board of Nursing
 Scope of Practice
 Advisory Opinions
 General

	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	Board decision
March-95	over the counter medications	Anchorage School District	No regulatory mechanism is in place regarding over the counter medication administration by nurses licensed in Alaska, and any licensed nurse doing so is not protected by law. Board supports the school district's current policies and procedures on medication administration.
March-95	responsibility for medications when nurse is not on duty	Department of Corrections	The board determined that nurses licensed in Alaska are not responsible for the administration of any medications when they are not on duty.
June-97	Repackaging medications into medisets or blister medi-packs is within the scope of traditional nursing practice.	Response to request from K. Kaihoi, RPh	Fits the definition of medication administration, an inherent nursing function. It is not relabeling or rebranding.

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September-97	Nonphysician medical screening examination within the scope of registered nurse practice.	Review of South Peninsula Hospital policy statement	Approval for this particular policy only. Such policies must be reviewed individually.
September-97		Correspondence between home health care coordinator and Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation regarding nail and foot care for diabetic patients.	Standard nail care is an acceptable practice for nurses using protocol.
December-98	Non-FDA approved remedies	Discussion with long-term care ombudsman on administering over the counter medications in long-term care setting. Reference to 3/95 statement on over the counter medication.	Administering remedies that are not FDA approved is outside a nurse's scope of practice.

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March-99	Homeopathic remedies	Reaffirming earlier position after a request that the board reconsider its position.	Administering homeopathic remedies is not within a nurse's scope of practice.
December-04	Registered Nurse precepting of EMT and paramedic students		A letter will be sent to the Board of Medicine with a request to remove "registered nurse" from 12 AAC 40.325(1) where they are named as trainers for EMTs in the BOM regulations.
December-04	EMT and paramedic student precepting by Registered Nurses	Chuck Kuhns, UAF	The Board supports the education of paramedics and feels that nurses should be involved in their education. The paramedic student qualifies as a UAP and those regulations are defined in 12 AAC 44.950 through 990, which limit delegating invasive procedures and medication administration. The Board encouraged the paramedic instructor to develop a method of communicating paramedic student's previous coursework and skills to the nurse preceptors. The Board recommends the supervision of students in the clinical setting be done by an instructor from the paramedic program who is present on-site.
March-05	Scope of Practice review by Board of Nursing		Board accepts the document "Increasing Scope of Practice: Alaska Board of Nursing assures Public Access and Safety" and will send the document for review to the Department of Law for input.
September-05	Labeling and use of resident's own medication in corrections facility	Sara Harvison, Division of Juvenile Justice	Refer to pharmacist.

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September-05	Registered Nurse delegation of IV medication administration to EMT or paramedic student	UA paramedic program and Registered Nurse inquiry	It is outside the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse to delegate the administration of IV medications to a paramedic or EMT student.
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