

**Alaska Board of Nursing
Advisory Opinions
Scope of Practice
Licensed Practical Nurses**

	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
March-95	Dispensing medications	Alaska Native Medical Center	Dispensing medications is not within the scope of practice of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse in Alaska
September-97	flush Groshong catheters or PICC lines	Providence Kodiak Home Care Agency	A licensed practical nurse may not flush Groshong catheters or PICC lines with normal saline.

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September-99	intravenous medications.	dialysis clinic	The administration of intravenous medications is not a task that can be delegated by a registered nurse to a licensed practical nurse. Delegating intravenous medication administration to a licensed practical nurse is considered unprofessional conduct. SEE UPDATED APPENDIX A, WHICH ALLOWS FOR AN EXPERIENCED (> 6 MONTHS IN PRACTICE) LPN TO INITIALTE PERIPAHERAL IV THERPAY, HANG PRE-MIXED SOLUTIONS, INCLUDING PIGGYBACK MEDICATIONS, AND ONGOING ADMINISTRATION OF TPN SOLUTIONS INCLUDING LIPIDS, VIA PERIPHERAL LINES. APPENDIX A REPEALED 1/2010,
March-01	independent work in school	Response to letter from Geis, RN, with copy to Fairbanks School District	A licensed practical nurse may not work independently as a school nurse.
December-01	filling medisets	pharmacist	A licensed practical nurse may not prefill medi-sets;Pre-filling medisets is “dispensing” rather than “administering” medications. SEE SEPTEMBER 2002.
March-02	filling medisets	assisted living home owners	Filling medisets is considered dispensing by law and this is not a change in scope of practice of an Licensed Practical Nurse. SEE SEPTEMBER 2002.
June-02	triage	Phyllis Boskofsky, RN, Maniilaq Health Center, Kotzebue	Triage patient assessments are outside the scope of practice for the LPN.

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September-02	filling medisets		Repackaging dispensed medications is "administration", and within the scope of traditional nursing practice, including LPNs. This decision overturns the Board's decision of December 2001 and March 2002 stating that pre-filling medisets was dispensing and outside the scope of practice for Licensed Practical Nurse.
September-04	Licensed Practical Nurse scope of practice		Board readopts Appendix A, Position Statement, Scope of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses APPENDIX A REPEALED 1/2010,
September-05	chemotherapy	Deborah Fox	chemotherapy is outside the scope of practice for Licensed Practical Nurse
December-07	delegation decision tree		the board adopted the Ohio and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing decision trees for making delegation judgments.
December-07	scope of practice delegation tree		the board adopted the Arizona decision tree to aide Licensed Practical Nurses in making judgments.
October-10	Defining the practice of an LPN		AS 08.68.410(8) states "practice of practical nursing" means the performance for compensation or personal profit of nursing functions that do not require the substantial specialized skill, judgment, and knowledge of a registered nurse.

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October-09	Licensed Practical Nurse scope of practice	Alask Division of Corrections	The Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska clarified that: 1. It is outside the LPN's scope of practice to identify unlabeled medications. 2. It is outside the LPN's scope of practice to do intake assessments on those entering into correctional facilities.
April-10	LPNs may not take X-rays		The Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska , has determined it is beyond the scope of practice for an ANP, RN, LPN, or CNA to perform x-rays and radiological procedures involving the use of contrast media, use of fluoroscopic equipment, mammography, tomography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), bone densitometry using ionizing radiation, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, or computed tomography imaging (CT scan).
April-11	Department of Corrections Inmate Health Form 807	Alask Division of Corrections Stacy Cox, RN Nursing Supervisor at the Fairbanks Correctional Center	The Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska has determined that LPN's may complete the Department of Corrections Inmate Health form 807.14A revised 11/2010 pg. 1-3 with the exception of the mini CIWA portion. An RN or health care provider needs to review and sign the form within 24 hours of intake.
July-11	Department of Corrections Inmate Health Form 807	Alaska Division of Corrections Joyce DeGroot, RN	RESOLVED that the Board of Nursing for the State of Alaska allows LPN's to complete the Department of Corrections Inmate Health Form 807.14B revised 11/2010. An RN or health care provider needs to review & sign the form within 24 hours of intake.