### STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice

#### ARKANSAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Professional</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Prescription</th>
<th>Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Own Authority</td>
<td>Delegated Authority</td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwife</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Practice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Nurse Spec.</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Nurse</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Nurse</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacist</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### NOTES:

1. **Immunization Practice**: Includes the assessment of patient status, the prescription of appropriate vaccines, and the administration of vaccines.

2. **Delegated Authority**: May include the following terms: standing orders, protocol, collaborative agreement, direct or indirect supervision, at the direction of another provider, as ordered by another provider, or as prescribed by another provider.

3. **Legal Interpretation—Nurses**: Registered Nurses retain all authority granted to Practical Nurses and Vocational Nurses. Nurses engaging in advanced practice (Advanced Practice, Clinical Nurse Spec., and Nurse Practitioner) retain all authority granted to Registered Nurses, Practical Nurses, and Vocational Nurses.

4. **Legal Interpretation—Midwives**: Because midwives are not nurses in all states, they are identified as a separate professional category. When midwives are nurses, the following interpretations apply: Midwives who are identified as Registered Nurses retain all authority granted to Practical Nurses and Vocational Nurses. Midwives who engage in advanced practice retain all authority granted to Registered Nurses, Practical Nurses, and Vocational Nurses.

5. **Gray box**: Provider practices within the state, however the state has no relevant law addressing this element.

6. Note the two different levels of nurse practitioner present in the state (advanced nurse practitioner and registered nurse practitioner).

#### MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Physicians [may] delegate the performance of certain medical practices or tasks to qualified and properly trained employees (commonly referred to as medical assistants), who are not licensed or otherwise specifically authorized by Arkansas law to perform the practice or task.

2. “Medical Practice” means those tasks or functions that are delegated to a qualified and properly trained employee, including the administration of drugs.

5. “Medical Assistant” means an employee of a Physician who has been delegated medical practices or tasks, and who has not been licensed by or specifically authorized to perform the practice or task pursuant to other provisions of Arkansas law.
Section 2. Procedures for Delegating a Medical Practice  
A. Prior to delegating a medical practice or task, the physician shall determine the following: 1) That the medical practice or task is within that Physician's authority to perform; 2) That the medical practice or task is indicated for the patient; 3) The appropriate level of supervision for the Physician to exercise while the medical practice or task is being performed; 4) That the person to whom the medical practice or task is being delegated is qualified and properly trained to perform the medical practice or task; and 5) That the medical practice is one that can be appropriately delegated when considering the following factors: i. That the medical practice can be performed without requiring the exercise of judgment based on medical knowledge; ii. That the results of the medical practice are reasonably predictable; [ii]. That the medical practice can be safely performed according to exact, unchanging directions; iv. That the medical practice can be performed without the need for complex observations or critical decisions; and. v. That the medical practice can be performed without repeated medical assessments.  

Section 3. Additional Requirements for Delegating the Administration of Drugs  
A. A Physician may only delegate the administration of drugs that do not require substantial, specialized judgment and skill based on knowledge and application of the principles of biological, physical, and social sciences.  
B. Administration of drugs, delegated pursuant to this Regulation, shall only be permissible within the physical boundaries of the delegating physician's offices;  
C. The Physician shall evaluate the acuity of the patient and make a determination that delegation is appropriate;  
D. The Physician shall determine the competency of the person to whom the administration of drugs is being delegated through training and experience, including the physician's personal observation.  

MIDWIFE

. . . (4)(A) “Practice of advanced practice nursing” means the delivery of health care services for compensation by professional nurses who have gained additional knowledge and skills through successful completion of an organized program of nursing education that certifies nurses for advanced practice roles as . . . certified nurse midwives . . . .  
(B) . . . (iv) “Practice of nurse midwifery” means the performance for compensation of nursing skills relevant to the management of women's health care, focusing on pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period, care of the newborn, family planning, and gynecological needs of women, within a health care system that provides for consultation, collaborative management, or referral as indicated by the health status of the client . . . . Ark. Code § 17-87-102 (2012) Definitions; see also Ark. Admin. Code 067.00.1-II (2012) The Practice of Nursing

By way of example, and not in limitation, the following are nursing tasks that are not within the scope of sound nursing judgment to delegate: 1. Physical, psychological, and social assessment which requires nursing judgment, intervention, referral, or follow-up . . . . 5. Administration of any medications . . . . Ark. Admin. Code § 067.00.5-E (2012) Nursing Tasks That Shall Not Be Delegated

NURSES

Clinical Nurse Spec.  
. . . (4)(A) “Practice of advanced practice nursing” means the delivery of health care services for compensation by professional nurses who have gained additional knowledge and skills through successful completion of an organized program of nursing education that certifies nurses for advanced practice roles as . . . clinical nurse specialists.  
(B) . . . (iii) “Practice of clinical nurse specialist nursing” means the performance for compensation of nursing skills by a registered nurse who, through study and supervised practice at the graduate level and as evidenced by national certification, has advanced knowledge and practice skills in a specialized area of nursing practice . . . . Ark. Code § 17-87-102 (2012) Definitions; see also Ark. Admin. Code 067.00.1-II (2012) The Practice of Nursing
By way of example, and not in limitation, the following are nursing tasks that are not within the scope of sound nursing judgment to delegate: 1. Physical, psychological, and social assessment which requires nursing judgment, intervention, referral, or follow-up ... 5. Administration of any medications. ... Ark. Admin. Code § 067.00.5-E (2012) Nursing Tasks That Shall Not Be Delegated

Nurse Practitioner
Advanced Nurse Practitioner

. . . (4)(A) “Practice of advanced practice nursing” means the delivery of health care services for compensation by professional nurses who have gained additional knowledge and skills through successful completion of an organized program of nursing education that certifies nurses for advanced practice roles as advanced nurse practitioners. . . .

(B)(i) “Practice of advanced nurse practitioner nursing” means the performance for compensation of nursing skills by a registered nurse who, as demonstrated by national certification, has advanced knowledge and practice skills in the delivery of nursing services. ... Ark. Code § 17-87-102 (2012) Definitions; see also Ark. Admin. Code 067.00.1-II (2012) The Practice of Nursing

By way of example, and not in limitation, the following are nursing tasks that are not within the scope of sound nursing judgment to delegate: 1. Physical, psychological, and social assessment which requires nursing judgment, intervention, referral, or follow-up ... 5. Administration of any medications. ... Ark. Admin. Code § 067.00.5-E (2012) Nursing Tasks That Shall Not Be Delegated

Registered Nurse Practitioner

. . . (8)(A) “Practice of registered nurse practitioner nursing” means the delivery of health care services for compensation in collaboration with and under the direction of a licensed physician or under the direction of protocols developed with a licensed physician. (B) Registered nurse practitioners shall be authorized to engage in activities as recognized by the nursing profession and as authorized by the board. (C) Nothing in this subdivision (8) is to be deemed to limit a registered nurse practitioner from engaging in those activities which normally constitute the practice of nursing, or those which may be performed by persons without the necessity of the license to practice medicine. Ark. Code § 17-87-102 (2012) Definitions; see also Ark. Admin. Code 067.00.1-II (2012) The Practice of Nursing

By way of example, and not in limitation, the following are nursing tasks that are not within the scope of sound nursing judgment to delegate: 1. Physical, psychological, and social assessment which requires nursing judgment, intervention, referral, or follow-up ... 5. Administration of any medications. ... Ark. Admin. Code § 067.00.5-E (2012) Nursing Tasks That Shall Not Be Delegated

Practical Nurse

. . . (5) “Practice of practical nursing” means the performance for compensation of acts involving the care of the ill, injured, or infirm or the delegation of certain nursing practices to other personnel as set forth in regulations established by the board under the direction of a registered professional nurse, an advanced practice nurse, a licensed physician, or a licensed dentist, which acts do not require the substantial specialized skill, judgment, and knowledge required in professional nursing. ... Ark. Code § 17-87-102 (2012) Definitions; see also Ark. Admin. Code 067.00.1-II (2012) The Practice of Nursing

. . . All screenings and immunizations must be performed by personnel meeting, at a minimum, registered nurse status. Ark. Admin. Code § 016.06.18-201.000 (2012) Arkansas Medicaid Participation Requirements for Child Health Services (EPSDT) Providers Except School-Based Child Health Services Providers
Registered Nurse

. . . (6) “Practice of professional nursing” means the performance for compensation of any acts involving: (A) The observation, care, and counsel of the ill, injured, or infirm; (B) The maintenance of health or prevention of illness of others; (C) The supervision and teaching of other personnel; (D) The delegation of certain nursing practices to other personnel as set forth in regulations established by the board; or (E) The administration of medications and treatments as prescribed by practitioners authorized to prescribe and treat in accordance with state law when such acts require substantial specialized judgment and skill based on knowledge and application of the principles of biological, physical, and social sciences . . . . Ark. Code § 17-87-102 (2012) Definitions; see also Ark. Admin. Code 067.00.1-II (2012) The Practice of Nursing

. . . All screenings and immunizations must be performed by personnel meeting, at a minimum, registered nurse status. Ark. Admin. Code § 016.06.18-201.000 (2012) Arkansas Medicaid Participation Requirements for Child Health Services (EPSDT) Providers Except School-Based Child Health Services Providers

PHARMACIST

. . . (16)(A) “Practice of pharmacy” means the learned profession of: (i)(a) Dispensing, selling, distributing, transferring possession of, vending, bartering, or, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, administering drugs, medicines, poisons, or chemicals that under the laws of the United States or the State of Arkansas may be sold or dispensed only on the prescription and order of a practitioner authorized by law to prescribe drugs, medicines, poisons, or chemicals. (b) Except in accordance with regulations adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy as recommended by the Medications Administration Advisory Committee, the administration of medications shall be limited to the following classifications of medications: immunizations, vaccines. . . . (c) Influenza vaccines and influenza immunizations may be administered to a person seven (7) years of age and older under a general written protocol. (d) Vaccines and immunizations other than influenza vaccines and influenza immunizations may be administered to a person from seven (7) years of age to eighteen (18) years of age under a patient-specific order or prescription and subject to reporting of the administration to the prescribing physician together with any reporting required under § 20-15-1203. (e) Vaccines and immunizations other than influenza vaccines and influenza immunizations may be administered to a person eighteen (18) years of age or older under a general written protocol. . . . (g) A general written protocol . . . and patient-specific orders or prescriptions . . . shall be from a physician licensed by the Arkansas State Medical Board and practicing in Arkansas or within fifty (50) miles of the Arkansas border. . . . Ark. Code § 17-92-101 (2012) Definitions

. . . (b) Authority to administer medications/immunizations: (1) An Authority to Administer is a written protocol . . . from a practitioner for administration by a pharmacist of an approved medication or immunization. (2) Pharmacists may provide pharmaceutical care to patients seven (7) years of age and older by administering medications or immunizations to an eligible patient upon receiving an Authority to Administer or a valid prescription order by a practitioner so authorized to prescribe such medications or immunizations. . . . After completing the course of study . . . licensed interns . . . may provide pharmaceutical care to patients seven (7) years of age and older by administering medications or immunizations to an eligible patient, under the supervision of an appropriately licensed pharmacist with an Authority to Administer. . . . (c) Seven classifications of approved medications for administration (1) Immunizations (2) Vaccines. . . . . . . Ark. Admin. Code § 070.00.9-09-00-0002 (2012) Prescription Orders to Administer Medication and/or Immunizations

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

(a) Physician assistants provide health care services with physician supervision. The supervising physician shall be identified on all prescriptions and orders. Physician assistants may perform those duties and responsibilities, including the prescribing, ordering, and administering drugs and medical devices, that are delegated by their supervising physicians. (b) Physician assistants shall be considered the agents of their supervising physicians in the performance of all practice-related activities, including, but not limited to, the ordering of diagnostic, therapeutic, and other medical services. (c) Physician assistants may perform health care services in any setting authorized by the supervising physician in accordance with any applicable facility policy. Ark. Code § 17-105-107 (2012) Scope of authority—Delegatory authority—Agent of supervising physician
(a) Physicians supervising physician assistants may delegate prescriptive authority to physician assistants to include prescribing, ordering, and administering . . . all legend drugs, and all nonschedule prescription medications and medical devices. All prescriptions and orders issued by a physician assistant shall also identify his or her supervising physician. . . . \textit{Ark. Code § 17-105-108 (2012) Prescriptive authority}

(a) Patient care orders generated by a physician assistant shall be construed as having the same medical, health, and legal force and effect as if the orders were generated by their supervising physician, provided that the supervising physician's name is identified in the patient care order. (b) The orders shall be complied with and carried out as if the orders had been issued by the physician assistant's supervising physician. \textit{Ark. Code § 17-105-122 (2012) Physician assistant patient care orders}
### STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice

#### PRACTICE SETTINGS

**ARKANSAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Professional</th>
<th>Practice Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistant</td>
<td>Physician’s office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
<td>See Clinical Nurse Specialist, Midwife, and Nurse Practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwife</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Nurse</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Nurse</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacist</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>Any setting authorized by the supervising physician</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**

... Section 3. Additional Requirements for Delegating the Administration of Drugs ... B. Administration of drugs, delegated pursuant to this Regulation, shall only be permissible within the physical boundaries of the delegating physician's offices. ...  


**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**

... (c) Physician assistants may perform health care services in any setting authorized by the supervising physician in accordance with any applicable federal policy. ... *Ark. Code § 17-105-107 (2012) Scope of authority - Delegatory authority - Agent of supervising physician*

---

Source: GWU/SPHHS STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice—Summer 2013
Arkansas—Page 7

CITED AUTHORITIES

ARKANSAS


Ark. Admin. Code § 016.06.18-201.000 (2012) Arkansas Medicaid Participation Requirements for Child Health Services (EPSDT) Providers Except School-Based Child Health Services Providers

Ark. Admin. Code § 070.00.9-09-00-0002 (2012) Prescription Orders to Administer Medication and/or Immunizations


Source: GWU/SPHHS STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice—Summer 2013