## STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice
### CALIFORNIA

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### 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

### MEDICAL ASSISTANT

(a)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a medical assistant may administer medication only by intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections and perform skin tests and additional technical supportive services upon the specific authorization and supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon or a licensed podiatrist. A medical assistant may also perform all these tasks and services in a [licensed] clinic . . . upon the specific authorization of a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner, or a nurse-midwife.

(2) The supervising physician and surgeon at a [licensed] clinic . . . may, at his or her discretion, in consultation with the nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, or physician assistant provide written instructions to be followed by a medical assistant in the performance of tasks or supportive services.
These written instructions may provide that the supervisory function for the medical assistant for these tasks or supportive services may be delegated to the nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, or physician assistant within the standardized procedures or protocol, and that tasks may be performed when the supervising physician and surgeon is not onsite, so long as the following apply: (A) The nurse practitioner or nurse-midwife is functioning pursuant to standardized procedures . . . or protocol. The standardized procedures or protocol shall be developed and approved by the supervising physician and surgeon, the nurse practitioner or nurse-midwife, and the facility administrator or his or her designee. (B) The physician assistant is functioning pursuant to regulated services . . . and is approved to do so by the supervising physician or surgeon.

(b) As used in this section . . . the following definitions shall apply . . . (2) “Specific authorization” means a specific written order prepared by the supervising physician and surgeon or the supervising podiatrist, or the physician assistant, the nurse practitioner, or the nurse-midwife as provided in subdivision (a), authorizing the procedures to be performed on a patient, which shall be placed in the patient's medical record, or a standing order prepared by the supervising physician and surgeon or the supervising podiatrist, or the physician assistant, the nurse practitioner, or the nurse-midwife as provided in subdivision (a), authorizing the procedures to be performed, the duration of which shall be consistent with accepted medical practice. A notation of the standing order shall be placed on the patient's medical record. Cal. Business and Professions Code § 2069 (2012)

Medical assistants; authorized tasks under direction of certain medical professionals; delegation of supervision; definitions; inpatient care in general acute care hospitals prohibited; section not to be construed to authorize medical assistants to perform certain tasks or nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife or physician assistant to be a laboratory director of a clinical laboratory

MIDWIFE

“Advanced practice registered nurse” means those licensed registered nurses who have met the requirements of Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 2746). . . .” Cal. Business and Professions Code § 2725.5 (2013) “Advanced practice registered nurse” defined

The board shall issue a certificate to practice nurse-midwifery to any person who qualifies under this article and is licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. Cal. Business and Professions Code § 2746 (2013) Issuance of certificate to practice

(a) [No] provision of law shall be construed to prohibit a certified nurse-midwife from furnishing or ordering drugs or devices . . . when . . . (2) The drugs or devices are furnished or ordered by a certified nurse-midwife in accordance with standardized procedures or protocols. . . . [that] shall specify . . . (4) The furnishing or ordering of drugs or devices by a certified nurse-midwife occurs under physician and surgeon supervision. . . . Notwithstanding any other provision of law, (1) a drug order . . . shall be treated in the same manner as a prescription of the supervising physician . . . (3) the signature of a certified nurse-midwife on a drug order issued in accordance with this section shall be deemed to be the signature of a prescriber . . . Cal. Business and Professions Code § 2746.51 (2012) Furnishing or ordering drugs or devices

NURSES

Nurse Practitioner

[No] provision of law shall be construed to prohibit a nurse practitioner from furnishing or ordering drugs or devices when . . . (a) The drugs or devices are furnished or ordered by a nurse practitioner in accordance with standardized procedures or protocols developed by the nurse practitioner and the supervising physician and surgeon . . . . (b) The nurse practitioner is functioning pursuant to standardized procedure . . . or protocol. The standardized procedure or protocol shall be developed and approved by the supervising physician and surgeon, the nurse practitioner, and the facility administrator or the designee. . . . (d) The furnishing or ordering of drugs or devices by a nurse practitioner occurs under physician and surgeon supervision. Physician and surgeon supervision shall not be construed to require the physical presence of the physician, but does include (1) collaboration on the development of the standardized procedure, (2) approval of the standardized procedure, and (3) availability by telephonic contact at the time of patient examination by the nurse practitioner. . . . (1) a drug order issued pursuant to this section shall be treated in the same manner as a prescription of the supervising physician . . . . Cal. Business and Professions Code § 2836.1 (2012) Furnishing drugs or devices
(a) . . . [T]he [governing board of a school district] may permit a licensed physician and surgeon, or a health care practitioner listed in subdivision (b) who is acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, to administer an immunizing agent to a pupil whose parent or guardian has consented in writing to the administration of the immunizing agent.

(b)(1) The following health care practitioners, acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, may administer an immunizing agent within the course of a school immunization program . . . (B) A nurse practitioner. . . .

(2) A health care practitioner's authority to administer an immunizing agent pursuant to this subdivision is subject to the following conditions: (A) The administration of an immunizing agent is upon the standing orders of a supervising physician and surgeon and in accordance with any written regulations that the State Department of Public Health may adopt. (B) The school nurse is notified and he or she maintains control, as necessary, as supervisor of health . . . .

(C) The health care practitioner may only administer immunizations for the prevention and control of any of the following: (i) Annual seasonal influenza. (ii) Influenza pandemic episodes. (iii) Other diseases that represent a current or potential outbreak as declared by a federal, state, or local public health officer.  


Registered Nurse

. . . (b) The practice of nursing . . . means . . .

(1) . . . the performance of disease prevention . . . .

(2) Direct and indirect patient care services, including, but not limited to, the administration of medications and therapeutic agents, necessary to implement a treatment, disease prevention, or rehabilitative regimen ordered by and within the scope of licensure of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or clinical psychologist . . . .

(3) The performance of . . . immunization techniques . . . .

(4) Observation of signs and symptoms of illness, reactions to treatment, general behavior, or general physical condition, and (A) determination of whether the signs, symptoms, reactions, behavior, or general appearance exhibit abnormal characteristics, and (B) implementation, based on observed abnormalities, of appropriate reporting, or referral, or standardized procedures, or changes in treatment regimen in accordance with standardized procedures, or the initiation of emergency procedures.  


It is the intent of the Legislature that the administration of immunizing agents by registered nurses in school immunization programs under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon . . . shall be in accordance with accepted medical procedure.  


(a) . . . [T]he [governing board of a school district] may permit a licensed physician and surgeon, or a health care practitioner listed in subdivision (b) who is acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, to administer an immunizing agent to a pupil whose parent or guardian has consented in writing to the administration of the immunizing agent.

(b)(1) The following health care practitioners, acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, may administer an immunizing agent within the course of a school immunization program . . . (C) A registered nurse. . . .
(2) A health care practitioner's authority to administer an immunizing agent pursuant to this subdivision is subject to the following conditions: (A) The administration of an immunizing agent is upon the standing orders of a supervising physician and surgeon and in accordance with any written regulations that the State Department of Public Health may adopt.

(B) The school nurse is notified and he or she maintains control, as necessary, as supervisor of health.

(C) The health care practitioner may only administer immunizations for the prevention and control of any of the following: (i) Annual seasonal influenza. (ii) Influenza pandemic episodes. (iii) Other diseases that represent a current or potential outbreak as declared by a federal, state, or local public health officer. Cal. Education Code § 49403 (2012) Cooperation in control of communicable disease and immunization of pupils

. . . (b) A registered nurse, acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, may perform immunization techniques within the course of a school immunization program provided that the administration of an immunizing agent is upon the standing orders of a supervising physician and surgeon. . . . (c) While nothing in this section shall be construed to require the physical presence of the supervising physician and surgeon, the supervising physician and surgeon under whose direction the registered nurse is acting shall require the nurse to: (1) Satisfactorily demonstrate competence in the administration of immunizing agents, including knowledge of all indications and contraindications for the administration of these agents, and in the recognition and treatment of any emergency reactions to agents which constitute a danger to the health or life of the person receiving the immunizations; and (2) Possess medications and equipment required, in the medical judgment of the supervising physician and surgeon, to treat any emergency conditions and reactions caused by the immunizing agents and which constitute a danger to the health or life of the person receiving the immunization, and to demonstrate the ability to administer the medications and to utilize the equipment as necessary. Cal. Education Code § 76403 (2012) Cooperation in control of communicable disease and immunization of pupils

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for a patient aged 50 years or older, a registered nurse . . . may administer in a skilled nursing facility . . . influenza and pneumococcal immunizations pursuant to standing orders and without patient-specific orders if all of the following criteria are met: (1) The skilled nursing facility medical director . . . has approved the immunization standing orders established by the facility. (2) The standing orders meet the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. . . . Cal. Health and Safety Code § 1261.3 (2012) Administration of immunizations by registered nurse or licensed pharmacist without patient-specific orders; patients aged 50 years or older; criteria

Vocational Nurse
(a) A licensed vocational nurse, acting under the direction of a physician may perform . . . (2) immunization techniques, providing such administration is upon standing orders of a supervising physician, or pursuant to written guidelines adopted by a hospital or medical group with whom the supervising physician is associated. Cal. Business and Professions Code § 2860.7 (2012) Performance of skin tests and immunizations; supervision and guidelines; qualifications

(a) . . . [T]he [governing board of a school district] may permit a licensed physician and surgeon, or a health care practitioner listed in subdivision (b) who is acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, to administer an immunizing agent to a pupil whose parent or guardian has consented in writing to the administration of the immunizing agent.

(b)(1) The following health care practitioners, acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, may administer an immunizing agent within the course of a school immunization program . . . (D) A licensed vocational nurse. . . .

(2) A health care practitioner's authority to administer an immunizing agent pursuant to this subdivision is subject to the following conditions: (A) The administration of an immunizing agent is upon the standing orders of a supervising physician and surgeon and in accordance with any written regulations that the State Department of Public Health may adopt.
(B) The school nurse is notified and he or she maintains control, as necessary, as supervisor of health . . . .

(C) The health care practitioner may only administer immunizations for the prevention and control of any of the following: (i) Annual seasonal influenza. (ii) Influenza pandemic episodes. (iii) Other diseases that represent a current or potential outbreak as declared by a federal, state, or local public health officer. Cal. Education Code § 49403 (2012) Cooperation in control of communicable disease and immunization of pupils

PHARMACIST
(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for a patient aged 50 years or older, a . . . licensed pharmacist may administer in a skilled nursing facility . . . influenza and pneumococcal immunizations pursuant to standing orders and without patient-specific orders if all of the following criteria are met: (1) The skilled nursing facility medical director . . . has approved the immunization standing orders established by the facility. (2) The standing orders meet the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. . . . Cal. Health and Safety Code § 1261.3 (2012) Administration of immunizations by registered nurse or licensed pharmacist without patient-specific orders; patients aged 50 years or older; criteria

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
(a) A physician assistant may only provide those medical services which he or she is competent to perform and which are consistent with the physician assistant's education, training, and experience, and which are delegated in writing by a supervising physician who is responsible for the patients cared for by that physician assistant. (b) The writing which delegates the medical services shall be known as a delegation of services agreement. . . . 16 Cal. Admin. Code § 1399.540 (2012) Limitation on Medical Services

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a physician assistant may perform those medical services as set forth by the regulations of the board when the services are rendered under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon who is not subject to a disciplinary condition imposed by the board prohibiting that supervision or prohibiting the employment of a physician assistant. Cal. Business and Professions Code § 3502 (2012) Medical services authorized; supervision; prohibitions

(a) . . . [W]hile under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon or physicians and surgeons authorized by law to supervise a physician assistant, a physician assistant may administer or provide medication to a patient, or transmit orally, or in writing on a patient’s record or in a drug order, an order to a person who may lawfully furnish the medication or medical device . . .

(1) A supervising physician and surgeon who delegates authority to issue a drug order to a physician assistant may limit this authority by specifying the manner in which the physician assistant may issue delegated prescriptions. (2) Each supervising physician and surgeon who delegates the authority to issue a drug order to a physician assistant shall first prepare and adopt, or adopt, a written, practice specific, formulary and protocols that specify all criteria for the use of a particular drug or device, and any contraindications for the selection. . . . The drugs listed in the protocols shall constitute the formulary and shall include only drugs that are appropriate for use in the type of practice engaged in by the supervising physician or surgeon. When issuing an order, the physician assistant is acting on behalf of and as an agent for a supervising physician and surgeon. . . .

(c) A drug order for any patient cared for by the physician assistant that is issued by the physician assistant shall either be based on the protocols described in subdivision (a) or shall be approved by the supervising physician before it is filled or carried out. (1) A physician assistant shall not administer or provide a drug or issue a drug order for a drug other than for a drug listed in the formulary without advance approval from a supervising physician and surgeon for the particular patient. Cal. Business and Professions Code § 3502.1 (2012) Administration of medication; prescription transmittals; authority from supervising physician or surgeon; limitations; review of records; registration; sunset review
Because the physician assistant practice is directed by a supervising physician, and a physician assistant acts as an agent for that physician, the orders given and tasks performed by a physician assistant shall be considered the same as if they had been given and performed by the supervising physician. Unless otherwise specified in these regulations or in the delegation or protocols, these orders may be initiated without the prior patient specific order of the supervising physician. In any setting . . . a physician assistant, may, pursuant to a delegation and protocols where present: . . . (a) Take a patient history; perform a physical examination and make an assessment and diagnosis therefrom . . . (h) Administer . . . medication to a patient . . . 16 Cal. Admin. Code 1399.541 (2012) Medical Services Performable

(a) . . . [T]he [governing board of a school district] may permit a licensed physician and surgeon, or a health care practitioner listed in subdivision (b) who is acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, to administer an immunizing agent to a pupil whose parent or guardian has consented in writing to the administration of the immunizing agent.

(b)(1) The following health care practitioners, acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, may administer an immunizing agent within the course of a school immunization program: (A) A physician assistant . . .

(2) A health care practitioner's authority to administer an immunizing agent pursuant to this subdivision is subject to the following conditions: (A) The administration of an immunizing agent is upon the standing orders of a supervising physician and surgeon and in accordance with any written regulations that the State Department of Public Health may adopt.

(B) The school nurse is notified and he or she maintains control, as necessary, as supervisor of health . . .

(C) The health care practitioner may only administer immunizations for the prevention and control of any of the following: (i) Annual seasonal influenza. (ii) Influenza pandemic episodes. (iii) Other diseases that represent a current or potential outbreak as declared by a federal, state, or local public health officer. Cal. Education Code § 49403 (2012) Cooperation in control of communicable disease and immunization of pupils

Source: GWU/SPHIS STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice—Summer 2013
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PRACTICE SETTINGS
CALIFORNIA

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MEDICAL ASSISTANT
. . . A medical assistant may also perform all these tasks and services in a clinic licensed . . . upon the specific authorization of a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner, or a nurse-midwife. Cal Business and Professions Code § 2069 (2012) Medical assistants; authorized tasks under direction of certain medical professionals; delegation of supervision; definitions; inpatient care in general acute care hospitals prohibited; section not to be constructed to authorize medical assistants to perform certain tasks or nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife or physician assistant to be a laboratory director of a clinical laboratory.

NURSES
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Source: GWU/SPHIS STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice—Summer 2013
CITED AUTHORITIES
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Cal. Business and Professions Code § 2746.51 (2012) Furnishing or ordering drugs or devices


Cal. Business and Professions Code § 2860.7 (2012) Performance of skin tests and immunizations; supervision and guidelines; qualifications

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