STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice

GEORGIA

<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>See Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Nurse Spec. Nurse</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner Nurse</td>
<td>See Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Nurse Nurse</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse Nurse</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Nurse Nurse</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacist</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant Nurse</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.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit the performance by medical assistants of medical tasks, including subcutaneous and intramuscular injections or other tasks approved by the board pursuant to rule, if under the supervision by a physician in his or her office; provided, however, that this shall not require on-site supervision at all times, or the performance by medical assistants of medical tasks ordered by a physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse delegated the authority to issue such an order in accordance with law and pursuant to rules of the board. 


(1) . . . (a) . . . (1) . . . (i) A physician may delegate to a medical assistant the following medical tasks: subcutaneous and intramuscular injections or other tasks approved by the board pursuant to rule, if under the supervision by a physician in his or her office; provided, however, that this shall not require on-site supervision at all times, or the performance by medical assistants of medical tasks ordered by a physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse delegated the authority to issue such an order in accordance with law and pursuant to rules of the board. 


Georgia—Page 1
... medical assistant... assistant injected Kerr with a vaccination. ... Kerr v. Ob/Gyn Assocs. Of Savannah, 723 S.E.2d 302, 303 (Ga. Ct. App. 2012) (plaintiff claimed that medical assistant failed to appropriately manage positioning of patient while administering vaccine)

... RMC employed Burgess as a medical assistant. Her duties... administering injections. ... Stultz v. Safety & Compliance Mgmt., Inc., 648 S.E.2d 129, 131 (Ga. Ct. App. 2007) (plaintiff argued that medical assistant breached a non-compete agreement when she changed employer; her duties included administering injections)

NURSES
Advanced Practice
As used in this article, the term: (1) “Advanced nursing practice” means practice by a registered professional nurse who meets those educational, practice, certification requirements, or any combination of such requirements, as specified by the board and includes certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners... clinical nurse specialists in psychiatric/mental health, and others recognized by the board. ... Code of Ga. § 43-26-3 (2012) Definitions

... (2) An APRN may practice under a nurse protocol agreement... if the nurse protocol agreement adheres to the following criteria... (e) shall comply with the [state law related to delegated medical authority] regarding prescription drug orders placed by an APRN for a drug or medical device including. ... Ga. Admin. Code 410-13-.02 (2012) Regulation of Protocol Use By Advanced Practice Registered Nurses as Authorized by O.C.G.A. § 43-34-26.3

... (2) Definitions: (a) The advanced practice registered nurse is a certified nurse-midwife (CNM), nurse practitioner (NP)... or clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric/mental health (CNS,PMH), and is authorized to practice by the Georgia Board of Nursing (“the Board”)...

... (4) Authority to Practice... (b) The advanced practice registered nurse is authorized to perform advanced nursing functions and certain medical acts which include, but are not limited to, ordering drugs, treatments, and diagnostic studies. ... Ga. Admin. Code 410-12-.01 (2012) Purpose, Definitions, Title, and Authority for Advanced Nursing Practice

Practical Nurse
(a)... (7) “Nurse” means... a licensed practical nurse... who is regularly employed by a physician who actively engaged in the private practice of medicine. ... (f)... a registered professional nurse who is a party to an influenza protocol agreement pursuant to this Code section may delegate the administration of influenza vaccine to a licensed practical nurse under the direct on-site supervision of the registered professional nurse. ... (q) No influenza vaccine protocol agreement entered into pursuant to this Code section shall permit a... nurse to administer an influenza vaccine to any child under the age of 13 without an individual prescription from a physician, and consent of the child's parent or legal guardian shall be a condition precedent to the administration of an influenza vaccine to a child under the age of 18. Code of Ga. § 43-34-26.1 (2012) Influenza vaccine protocol agreement; vaccination for groups of patients; rules and regulations; liability

Registered Nurse
... (8) “Practice nursing as a registered professional nurse” means to practice nursing by performing for compensation any of the following: (A) Assessing the health status of individuals, groups, or both throughout the life span; (B) Establishing a nursing diagnosis... (D) Planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing care... (F) Managing and supervising the practice of nursing; (G) Collaborating with other members of the health care team in the management of care... (I) Administering, ordering, and dispensing medications, diagnostic studies, and medical treatments authorized by protocol, when such acts are authorized by other general laws and such acts are in conformity with those laws; (J) Administering medications and treatments as prescribed by a physician... a dentist... or a podiatrist... (K) Performing any other nursing act in the care and counsel of the ill, injured, or infirm, and in the promotion and maintenance of health with individuals, groups, or both throughout the life span. Code of Ga. § 43-26-3 (2012) Definitions
(a) . . . (7) “Nurse” means a registered professional nurse . . . who is regularly employed by a physician who actively engaged in the private practice of medicine. . . . (c) A physician engaged in the active practice of medicine may prescribe influenza vaccine for a group of patients via an influenza vaccine order contained in an influenza vaccine protocol agreement to be administered by a nurse, provided the physician is registered with the vaccination registry . . . . (q) No influenza vaccine protocol agreement entered into pursuant to this Code section shall permit a . . . nurse to administer an influenza vaccine to any child under the age of 13 without an individual prescription from a physician, and consent of the child's parent or legal guardian shall be a condition precedent to the administration of an influenza vaccine to a child under the age of 18.  Code of Ga. § 43-34-26.1 (2012) Influenza vaccine protocol agreement; vaccination for groups of patients; rules and regulations; liability

PHARMACIST
. . . (b) A physician engaged in the active practice of medicine may prescribe influenza vaccine for a group of patients via an influenza vaccine order contained in an influenza vaccine protocol agreement to be administered by a pharmacist. . . .

. . . (q) No influenza vaccine protocol agreement entered into pursuant to this Code section shall permit a pharmacist . . . to administer an influenza vaccine to any child under the age of 13 without an individual prescription from a physician, and consent of the child's parent or legal guardian shall be a condition precedent to the administration of an influenza vaccine to a child under the age of 18.  Code of Ga. § 43-34-26.1 (2012) Influenza vaccine protocol agreement; vaccination for groups of patients; rules and regulations; liability

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
. . . (4) The physician assistant may issue a prescription drug order, and/or order and initiate medical treatment or diagnostic studies in any health care setting, as authorized by his or her supervising physician.  Ga. Admin. Code 360-5-.11 (2012) Standards for Physician Assistant Practice

. . . (7) “Physician assistant” [may] provide patients' services not necessarily within the physical presence but under the personal direction or supervision of the supervising physician.  Code of Ga. § 43-34-102 (2012) Definitions

(e.1)(1) . . . [A] physician may delegate to a physician assistant . . . the authority to issue a prescription drug order or orders for any device . . . or to issue any dangerous drug . . . on a prescription drug order or prescription device order form . . . . Delegation of such authority shall be contained in the job description required by this Code section. The delegating physician shall remain responsible for the medical acts of the physician assistant performing such delegated acts and shall adequately supervise the physician assistant. If an existing job description for a physician assistant does not contain such authority to order a prescription drug or device order as provided by this subsection, that physician assistant may not issue any such prescription drug or device order until a new job description delegating such authority is submitted to and approved by the board. . . .

. . . (8) A physician assistant is not permitted to prescribe drugs or devices except as authorized in the physician assistant's job description and in accordance with this article.  Code of Ga. § 43-34-103 (2012) Physicians assistant's application; job description; duties of physician’s assistants


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

## PRACTICE SETTINGS

### GEORGIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Professional</th>
<th>Practice Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistant</td>
<td>Supervising physician’s office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist</td>
<td>See Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwife</td>
<td>See Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>See Advanced Practice Nurse</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>“[P]ublic or private places or facilities where the supervising physician or alternate supervising physician regularly sees patients”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient’s home, hospital, ambulance, nursing home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit the performance by medical assistants of medical tasks, including subcutaneous and intramuscular injections . . . if under the supervision by a physician in his or her office. . . .  

**Code of Ga. §43-34-44 (2012) Medical assistants performing medical tasks**

### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

. . . (d) A physician assistant is authorized to practice in those public or private places or facilities where the supervising physician or alternate supervising physician regularly sees patients, [including] making house calls, performing hospital duties, serving as an ambulance attendant, or performing any functions authorized by the supervising physician which the physician assistant is qualified to perform.  

**Code of Ga. § 43-34-103 (2012) Physician assistant’s application; job description; duties of physician’s assistants**

(1) A licensed physician assistant is authorized to practice in those public or private places or facilities where the primary or alternate supervising physician regularly sees patients. . . . (3) A physician assistant may make house calls, nursing home visits, perform hospital duties, serve as an ambulance attendant or perform other functions he is qualified to perform. . . .  


---

Source: GWU/SPHIS STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice—Summer 2013
CITED AUTHORITIES
GEORGIA


Ga. Admin. Code 410-12-.01 (2012) Purpose, Definitions, Title, and Authority for Advanced Nursing Practice

Code of Ga. § 43-34-26.1 (2012) Influenza vaccine protocol agreement; vaccination for groups of patients; rules and regulations; liability


Code of Ga. § 43-34-103 (2012) Physicians assistant’s application; job description; duties of physician’s assistants


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