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

| Health Professional | Assessment | | Prescription | | Administration | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|---|--------------|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                     | Own Authority | Delegated Authority | Prohibited | | Own Authority | Delegated Authority | Prohibited | | Own Authority | Delegated Authority | Prohibited | |
| Medical Assistant   | •          | •         | •           | • | •           | • | •           | • | • | •           | • | • | •           |
| Midwife             | •          | •         | •           | • | •           | • | •           | • | • | •           | • | • | •           |
| Advanced Practice   | See Midwife and Nurse Practitioner | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clinical Nurse Spec.| •          | •         | •           | • | •           | • | •           | • | • | •           | • | • | •           |
| Nurse Practitioner  | •          | •         | •           | • | •           | • | •           | • | • | •           | • | • | •           |
| Practical Nurse     | •          | •         | •           | • | •           | • | •           | • | • | •           | • | • | •           |
| Registered Nurse    | •          | •         | •           | • | •           | • | •           | • | • | •           | • | • | •           |
| Vocational         |            | •         | •           | • | •           | • | •           | • | • | •           | • | • | •           |
| Pharmacist          |            | •         | •           | • | •           | • | •           | • | • | •           | • | • | •           |
| Physician Assistant |            | •         | •           | • | •           | • | •           | • | • | •           | • | • | •           |

### 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

### MIDWIFE
A nurse practicing in an expanded role includes nurses whose professional activities fall within the following categories: (1) Nurse Midwife . . . . **244 Code of Mass. Regs. 4.11 (2012) Categories of Nurses Practicing in Expanded Roles**

(1) Nurse Midwife. The area of practice of a nurse midwife is . . . (a) Assessing the health status of women and infants by obtaining health and medical histories . . . (f) Assessing the growth and development of infants. **244 Code of Mass. Regs. 4.26 (2012) Scope of Practice for Categories of Nurses Practicing in an Expanded Role**
... (2) Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) Eligible to Engage in Prescriptive Practice. The following APNs are eligible to register with the Department of Public Health . . . and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to engage in prescriptive practice. (a) A Nurse Midwife . . . (4) Physician Supervision of an APN Engaged in Prescriptive Practice. (a) A supervising physician shall review and provide ongoing direction for the APN's prescriptive practice in accordance with written guidelines mutually developed and agreed upon with the APN . . . and the regulations of the Board of Registration in Nursing . . . . This supervision shall be provided as is necessary, taking into account the education, training and experience of the APN, the nature of the APN's practice, and the physician's availability to provide clinical backup to ensure that the APN is providing patient care in accordance with accepted standards of practice. (b) A supervising physician shall sign prescriptive practice guidelines only with those APNs for whom he or she is able to provide supervision . . . and (3), taking into account factors including, but not limited to geographical proximity, practice setting, volume and complexity of the patient population, and the experience, training and availability of the supervising physician and the APN(s). 243 Code of Mass. Regs. 2.10 (2012) Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) Eligible to Engage in Prescriptive Practice

... Eligible Provider for Payment for Administration of Flu Vaccines. A licensed . . . registered nurse practicing . . . as a nurse midwife . . . are eligible to receive payment for administering flu vaccines . . . . 114.3 Code of Mass. Regs. 17.02 (2012) General Definitions

... (11) Allowable Fees for Eligible Providers of Administration of Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine. Payment for services provided by . . . eligible licensed nurse midwives . . . to administer the H1N1 vaccine . . . . The fee of $13.76 is the rate for all providers and for all means of administration of the H1N1 vaccine . . . . 114.3 Code of Mass. Regs. 17.03 (2012) General Rate Provisions

NURSES
Nurse Practitioner
A nurse practicing in an expanded role includes nurses whose professional activities fall within the following categories . . . (2) Nurse Practitioner . . . . 244 Code of Mass. Regs. 4.11 (2012) Categories of Nurses Practicing in Expanded Roles

... (2) Nurse Practitioner. The area of practice of a nurse practitioner includes: (a) Assessing the health status of individuals and families by obtaining health and medical histories, performing physical examinations, diagnosing health and developmental problems . . . . 244 Code of Mass. Regs. 4.26 (2012) Scope of Practice for Categories of Nurses Practicing in an Expanded Role

... (2) Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) Eligible to Engage in Prescriptive Practice. The following APNs are eligible to register with the Department of Public Health . . . and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to engage in prescriptive practice. . . . (b) A Nurse Practitioner . . . (4) Physician Supervision of an APN Engaged in Prescriptive Practice. (a) A supervising physician shall review and provide ongoing direction for the APN's prescriptive practice in accordance with written guidelines mutually developed and agreed upon with the APN . . . and the regulations of the Board of Registration in Nursing . . . . This supervision shall be provided as is necessary, taking into account the education, training and experience of the APN, the nature of the APN's practice, and the physician's availability to provide clinical backup to ensure that the APN is providing patient care in accordance with accepted standards of practice. (b) A supervising physician shall sign prescriptive practice guidelines only with those APNs for whom he or she is able to provide supervision . . . and (3), taking into account factors including, but not limited to geographical proximity, practice setting, volume and complexity of the patient population, and the experience, training and availability of the supervising physician and the APN(s). 243 Code of Mass. Regs. 2.10 (2012) Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) Eligible to Engage in Prescriptive Practice

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Practical Nurse

. . . (4) A licensed practical nurse participates in direct and indirect nursing care . . . to: (a) assess an individual’s basic health status, records and related health data; (b) participate in analyzing and interpreting said recorded data, and making informed judgments as to the specific elements of nursing care mandated by a particular situation; (c) participate in planning and implementing nursing intervention, including appropriate health care components in nursing care plans that take account of the most recent advancements and current knowledge in the field. . . . 244 Code of Mass. Regs. 3.04 (2012) Responsibilities and Functions – Practical Nurse

Purpose: To guide the practice of the . . . Licensed Practical Nurse ("the nurse") who as part of their nursing practice may administer immunizing agents or vaccines to any member of the public in any and all settings. . . . Advisory: Immunizing agents or vaccines may be administered only under the following provisions. The nurse must: Verify the orders from a duly authorized prescriber. A nurse may administer an immunizing agent or vaccine ordered from a Standing Order Protocol. . . . Administration of Immunizing Agents, Advisory Ruling Number 9804, Board of Registration in Nursing (Issued in 1998, most recently revised in 2007)

Registered Nurse

. . . (3) . . . A registered nurse shall act, within his/her generic and continuing education and experience to: (a) systematically assess health status of individuals and groups and record the related health data; (2) analyze and interpret said recorded data; and make informed judgments therefrom as to the specific problems and elements of nursing care mandated by a particular situation; (c) plan and implement nursing intervention . . . . 244 Code of Mass. Regs. 3.02 (2012) Responsibilities and Functions – Registered Nurse

. . . (38) Administration of Drugs. A nurse licensed by the Board shall not administer any prescription drug or non-prescription drug to any person in the course of nursing practice except as directed by an authorized prescriber. . . . 244 Code of Mass. Regs. 9.03 (2012) Standards of Conduct for Nurses

Purpose: To guide the practice of the Registered Nurse . . . ("the nurse") who as part of their nursing practice may administer immunizing agents or vaccines to any member of the public in any and all settings. . . . Advisory: Immunizing agents or vaccines may be administered only under the following provisions. The nurse must: Verify the orders from a duly authorized prescriber. A nurse may administer an immunizing agent or vaccine ordered from a Standing Order Protocol. . . . Administration of Immunizing Agents, Advisory Ruling Number 9804, Board of Registration in Nursing (Issued in 1998, most recently revised in 2007)

PHARMACIST

. . . (F) Schedule VI. Schedule VI shall consist of all prescription drugs, which are not included in any other schedule established by the Commissioner. 105 Code of Mass. Regs. 700.002 (2013) Schedules of Controlled Substances

. . . (c) Collaborative drug therapy management shall only be allowed in the following settings . . . (5) a collaborating pharmacist in a retail drug business . . . with supervision by a physician according to the terms of his collaborative practice agreement and limited to the following: patients 18 years of age or older; an extension by 30 days of current drug therapy prescribed by the supervising physician; and administration of vaccines . . . . A pharmacist in the retail setting, who has a collaborative practice agreement with a supervising physician which specifically allows initial prescriptions for referred patients of the supervising physician, may issue prescriptions for schedule VI controlled substances . . . . Such prescriptions shall be for a patient diagnosis specified in the supervising physician's individual referral of that patient. A copy of the prescription shall be sent to the supervising physician within 24 hours. . . . Mass. Gen. Laws 112 § 24B 1/2 (2012) Pharmacist collaborative practice agreements; collaborative drug therapy management
(6) A registered pharmacist may dispense by administration influenza vaccine and other immunizations designated by the Department to persons 18 years of age or older provided that: (a) Such registered pharmacist is authorized to dispense controlled substances . . . (b) Such administration is conducted pursuant to the order of a practitioner . . . 105 Code of Mass. Regs. 700.004 (2012) Registration Requirements

(5) Vaccines Administration. Pharmacists, as authorized pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement, may administer vaccines . . . 247 Code of Mass. Regs. 16.03 (2012) Practice Setting Requirements

(4) Vaccine Administration. Pharmacists, as authorized pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement, may administer vaccines . . . 243 Code of Mass. Regs. 2.12 (2012) Collaborative Drug Therapy Management CDTM) [sic] with Authorized Pharmacists

Eligible Provider for Payment for Administration of Flu Vaccines. . . . Any pharmacy registered by the Board of Registration in Pharmacy which utilizes pharmacists or other health care professionals certified in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations . . . is eligible for payment to administer flu vaccines, if it otherwise meets such conditions of participation set forth by a purchasing governmental unit . . . 114.3 Code of Mass. Regs. 17.02 (2012) General Definitions

Allowable Fees for Eligible Providers of Administration of Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine. Payment for services provided by . . . eligible pharmacies which utilize pharmacists . . . to administer the H1N1 vaccine . . . The fee of $13.76 is the rate for all providers and for all means of administration of the H1N1 vaccine . . . 114.3 Code of Mass. Regs. 17.03 (2012) General Rate Provisions

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Any physician assistant . . . may issue written or oral prescriptions or medication orders for a patient, provided that he or she does so in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations . . . All physician assistants shall issue prescriptions or medication orders in accordance with written guidelines governing the prescription of medication which are mutually developed and agreed upon by the physician assistant and his or her supervising physician(s) . . . All prescriptions or medication orders issued by a physician assistant shall be issued in a manner which is consistent with the scope of practice of the physician assistant, the guidelines developed . . . and accepted standards of good medical practice for licensed physicians with respect to prescription practices . . . At least four hours of the continuing medical education which a physician assistant is required to obtain . . . as a condition for license renewal shall be in the field of pharmacology and/or pharmacokinetics . . . All prescriptions written by a physician assistant shall be written in accordance with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health . . . 263 Code of Mass. Regs. 5.07 (2012) Prescription Practices of a Physician Assistant

Delegation of Medical Services to a Physician Assistant (a) A supervising physician may permit physician assistants to perform those services which are under the authority of the supervising physician, including but not limited to prescribing by a physician assistant licensed to prescribe . . . (b) Physician assistants may approach patients of all ages and with all types of conditions, elicit histories, perform examinations, perform and interpret diagnostic studies, perform therapeutic procedures, instruct and counsel patients regarding physical and mental health issues, respond to life threatening situations, and facilitate the appropriate referral of patients, consistent with his or her supervising physician's scope of expertise and responsibility and delegated to him or her by the supervising physician . . . 243 Code of Mass. Regs. 2.08 (2012) Physician Assistants
(1) A physician assistant may, under the supervision of a licensed physician, perform any and all services which are: (a) Within the competence of the physician assistant in question, as determined by the supervising physician's assessment of his or her training and experience; and (b) Within the scope of services for which the supervising physician can provide adequate supervision to ensure that accepted standards of medical practice are followed. (2) A physician assistant may approach patients of all ages and with all types of conditions; elicit histories; perform examinations; order, perform and interpret diagnostic studies; order and perform therapeutic procedures; instruct and counsel patients regarding physical and mental health issues . . . consistent with his or her supervising physician's scope of expertise and responsibility and the level of authority and responsibility delegated to him or her by the supervising physician. . . . (4) Where a physician assistant is involved in the performance of major invasive procedures, such procedures shall be undertaken under specific written protocols, available to the Board upon request, which have been developed between the supervising physician and the physician assistant and which specify, inter alia, the level of supervision the service requires, e.g., direct (physician in room), personal (physician in building), or general (physician available by telephone). 263 Code of Mass. Regs. 5.04 (2012) Scope of Services Which May Be Performed

. . . Eligible Provider for Payment for Administration of Flu Vaccines. A . . . licensed physician assistant . . . [is] eligible to receive payment for administering flu vaccines. . . . 114.3 Code of Mass. Regs. 17.02 (2012) General Definitions

. . . (11) Allowable Fees for Eligible Providers of Administration of Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine. Payment for services provided by . . . eligible licensed physician assistants . . . to administer the H1N1 vaccine . . . . The fee of $13.76 is the rate for all providers and for all means of administration of the H1N1 vaccine. . . . 114.3 Code of Mass. Regs. 17.03 (2012) General Rate Provisions

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

**MASSACHUSETTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Professional</th>
<th>Practice Setting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistant</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
<td>See 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>Physician’s office; institution; private practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>Physician’s office; institution; private practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical Nurse</td>
<td>Any and all settings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
<td>Any and all 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>Hospitals; long-term care facilities; inpatient or outpatient hospice settings; ambulatory care clinics; retail drug business; community pharmacies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>“all types of clinical care settings, including, but not limited to: a patient’s home, any physician’s office, hospital, nursing home, extended care facility, state health or mental institution, clinic, health maintenance organization, industrial clinic, school or university health service, rural satellite clinic, or other health care facility licensed or otherwise operating legally within the Commonwealth”</td>
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#### NURSES

**Midwife**

(1) All nurses practicing in an expanded role (physician’s office, institution or private practice) shall practice in accordance with written guidelines developed in collaboration with and mutually acceptable to the nurse. . . . 244 Code of Mass. Regs. 4.22 (2012) Development, Approval, and Review of Guidelines for Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Anesthetists

**Nurse Practitioner**

(1) All nurses practicing in an expanded role (physician’s office, institution or private practice) shall practice in accordance with written guidelines developed in collaboration with and mutually acceptable to the nurse. . . . 244 Code of Mass. Regs. 4.22 (2012) Development, Approval, and Review of Guidelines for Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Anesthetists

**Practical Nurse**

**Purpose:** To guide the practice of the . . . Licensed Practical Nurse ("the nurse") who as part of their nursing practice may administer immunizing agents or vaccines to any member of the public in any and all settings. . . . Administration of Immunizing Agents, Advisory Ruling Number 9804, Board of Registration in Nursing (Issued in 1998, most recently revised in 2007)

**Registered Nurse**

**Purpose:** To guide the practice of the Registered Nurse . . . ("the nurse") who as part of their nursing practice may administer immunizing agents or vaccines to any member of the public in any and all settings. . . . Administration of Immunizing Agents, Advisory Ruling Number 9804, Board of Registration in Nursing (Issued in 1998, most recently revised in 2007)
PHARMACIST

. . . (c) Collaborative drug therapy management shall only be allowed in the following settings: (1) hospitals . . . subject to approval by the medical staff executive committee at a licensed hospital or designee; (2) long-term care facilities . . . subject to approval by the long-term care facilities' medical director or designee; (3) inpatient or outpatient hospice settings . . . subject to approval by the hospice's medical director or designee; (4) ambulatory care clinics . . . with on-site supervision by the attending physician and a collaborating pharmacist, subject to approval by the ambulatory care clinic's medical staff executive committee or designee, or medical director or designee; (5) a collaborating pharmacist in a retail drug business . . . with supervision by a physician according to the terms of his collaborative practice agreement . . . .  Mass. Gen. Laws 112 § 24B 1/2 (2012)

Pharmacist collaborative practice agreements; collaborative drug therapy management

. . . [C]ollaborative drug therapy management may be performed in the following settings by pharmacists meeting the requirements of 247 CMR 16.02(1) and authorized by a supervising physician pursuant to a current collaborative practice agreement: (1) Hospitals . . . subject to approval by the hospital medical staff executive committee or designee; (2) Long-term Care Facilities . . . subject to approval by the long-term care facility medical director or designee; (3) Inpatient or Outpatient Hospice Settings . . . subject to approval by the hospice medical director or designee; (4) Ambulatory Care Clinics . . . with on-site supervision by an attending physician affiliated with the ambulatory clinic and an authorized pharmacist, subject to approval by the ambulatory care clinic medical staff executive committee or designee, or medical director or designee; (5) Community Pharmacies (retail drug business settings) licensed by the Board . . . . 247 Code of Mass. Regs. 16.03 (2012)

Practice Setting Requirements

. . . (4) . . . (e) . . . 8. An authorized pharmacist in a community pharmacy may be authorized by a supervising physician to issue prescriptions for Schedule VI controlled substances . . . for the diagnoses specified in the supervising physician's patient referral. . . . 243 Code of Mass. Regs. 2.12 (2012) Collaborative Drug Therapy Management CCDTM) [sic] with Authorized Pharmacists

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

A physician assistant may serve the patients of his/her supervising licensed physician in all types of clinical care settings, including, but not limited to: a patient’s home, any physician’s office, hospital, nursing home, extended care facility, state health or mental institution, clinic, health maintenance organization, industrial clinic, school or university health service, rural satellite clinic, or other health care facility licensed or otherwise operating legally within the Commonwealth. 263 Code of Mass. Regs. 5.03 (2012) Permissible Work Settings

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

MASSACHUSETTS

244 Code of Mass. Regs. 4.26 (2012) Scope of Practice for Categories of Nurses Practicing in an Expanded Role
114.3 Code of Mass. Regs. 17.02 (2012) General Definitions
244 Code of Mass. Regs. 3.04 (2012) Responsibilities and Functions – Practical Nurse

Administration of Immunizing Agents, Advisory Ruling Number 9804, Board of Registration in Nursing (Issued in 1998, most recently revised in 2007)

244 Code of Mass. Regs. 3.02 (2012) Responsibilities and Functions – Registered Nurse

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