### STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice

<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</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.

### MEDICAL ASSISTANT

(1) The board shall adopt guidelines by administrative rule for: (a) the performance of administrative and clinical tasks by a medical assistant that are allowed to be delegated by a physician or podiatrist, including the administration of medications . . . .

**Mont. Code 37-3-104 (2012) Medical assistants—guidelines**

. . . (2) Medical assistants shall work under the supervision of a Montana-licensed physician or podiatrist who is responsible for assigning administrative and clinical tasks to the medical assistant relating to the physician or podiatrist's practice of medicine.

(3) Physician or podiatrist supervision shall be active and continuous but does not require the physical presence of the supervising physician or podiatrist at the time and place that services are rendered so long as the physician or podiatrist is available for consultation, except that physician or podiatrist supervision shall be onsite when a medical assistant performs: (a) invasive procedures; (b) administers medicine; or (c) performs allergy testing. . . .

(7) The following tasks may not be assigned to a medical assistant: (a) any [invasive] procedures, including injections other than immunizations. . . .

MIDWIFE

(2) “Advanced practice registered nurse” or “APRN” means a registered nurse licensed by the board to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse. Four types of APRNs are recognized by Montana law.

(1) An APRN granted prescriptive authority by the board may prescribe and dispense drugs pursuant to applicable state and federal laws. CNMs with unencumbered licenses may hold prescriptive authority.

Prescriptive Authority for Eligible APRNs

(1) Certified nurse midwifery (CNM) practice means the independent and/or collaborative management of care of essentially normal newborns, providing perinatal and general women's healthcare within a health care system that provides for medical consultation, collaborative management, and referral.

NURSES

Clinical Nurse Spec.

(2) “Advanced practice registered nurse” or “APRN” means a registered nurse licensed by the board to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse. Four types of APRNs are recognized by Montana law.

Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice

(1) Clinical nurse specialist (CNS) practice means the independent and/or collaborative delivery and management of expert level nursing care to individuals or groups, including the ability to: (a) assess the health status of individuals and families using methods appropriate to the client population and area of practice; (b) diagnose human responses to actual or potential health problems using the nursing process; (c) plan for health promotion, disease prevention, and/or therapeutic intervention in collaboration with the client; (d) implement therapeutic interventions based on the clinical nurse specialist's area(s) of expertise, including but not limited to, (iv) providing medications or treatments according to protocol.

Nurse Practitioner

(2) “Advanced practice registered nurse” or “APRN” means a registered nurse licensed by the board to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse. Four types of APRNs are recognized by Montana law.

(1) An APRN granted prescriptive authority by the board may prescribe and dispense drugs pursuant to applicable state and federal laws. NPs with unencumbered licenses may hold prescriptive authority. Prescriptive authority permits the APRN to receive pharmaceutical samples and to prescribe, dispense, and administer prescription drugs in the prevention of illness, the restoration of health, and/or the maintenance of health.
(1) Nurse practitioner (NP) practice means the independent and/or collaborative management of primary and/or acute health care of individuals, families, and communities including: (a) assessing the health status of individuals and families using methods appropriate to the client population and area of practice such as health history taking, physical examination, and assessing developmental health problems. . . . **Admin. Rules of Mont. 24.159.1470 (2012) Nurse Practitioner Practice**

**Practical Nurse**

. . . (8)(a) “Practice of practical nursing” means the . . . observation and care of the ill, injured, and infirm . . . and in the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by a physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse, dentist, osteopath, or podiatrist authorized by state law to prescribe medications and treatments. These services are performed under the supervision of a registered nurse or a physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, optometrist, dentist, osteopath, or podiatrist authorized by state law to prescribe medications and treatments. . . . **Mont. Code 37-8-102 (2012) Definitions**

(1) The practical nurse shall perform standardized, focused nursing assessments in the care of clients. . . . **Admin. Rules of Mont. 24.159.1004 (2012) Standards Related to the Practical Nurse’s Application of the Nursing Process**

**Registered Nurse**

(9) “Practice of professional nursing” . . . The nursing process is the assessment, nursing analysis, planning, nursing intervention, and evaluation in the promotion and maintenance of health, the prevention . . . of illness . . . . The term also includes . . . the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by physicians, naturopathic physicians, physician assistants, optometrists, advanced practice registered nurses, dentists, osteopaths, or podiatrists authorized by state law to prescribe medications and treatments. . . . **Mont. Code 37-8-102 (2012) Definitions**

(1) The registered nurse shall conduct and document nursing assessments of the health status of individuals and groups . . . **Admin. Rules of Mont. 24.159.1204 (2012) Standards Related to the Registered Nurse’s Responsibility to Apply the Nursing Process**

. . . (24) “Nursing process” means the traditional systematic method nurses use when they provide: (a) nursing care including assessment . . . . . . **Admin. Rules of Mont. 24.159.301 (2012) Definitions**

**PHARMACIST**

(1) In order to administer or prescribe vaccinations, a pharmacist must have a collaborative practice agreement with a practitioner authorized to prescribe drugs, or in the case of a public health emergency, a directive from the state medical officer of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (2) A pharmacist may administer vaccines to persons 18 years of age or older . . . . **Admin. Rules of Mont. 24.174.503 (2012) Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists**

(1) (a) “Administer” means the direct application of a drug to the body of a patient by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or any other means. (b) . . . [T]he term does not include immunization by injection for children under 18 years of age . . . (6) “Collaborative pharmacy practice” means the practice of pharmacy by a pharmacist who has agreed to work in conjunction with one or more prescribers, on a voluntary basis and under protocol, and who may perform certain patient care functions under certain specified conditions, or limitations authorized by the prescriber. (7) “Collaborative pharmacy practice agreement” means a written and signed agreement between one or more pharmacists and one or more prescribers that provides for collaborative pharmacy practice for the purpose of drug therapy management of patients. . . . (34) “Practice of pharmacy” means . . . (b) administering drugs and devices pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement and compounding, labeling, dispensing, and distributing drugs and devices, including patient counseling . . . . **Mont. Code 37-7-101 (2012) Definitions**

A pharmacist may administer immunization against the influenza virus by injection or inhalation for individuals who are 12 years of age or older. **Mont. Code 37-7-105 (2012) Administration of influenza vaccine**
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

. . . (3) “Physician assistant” means a member of a health care team, licensed by the board, who provides medical services that may include but are not limited to examination, diagnosis, prescription of medications, and treatment under the supervision of a physician licensed by the board. . . . "Mont. Code 37-20-401 (2012) Definitions"

(1) A physician assistant is considered the agent of the supervising physician with regard to all duties delegated to the physician assistant and is professionally and legally responsible for the care and treatment of a patient by a physician assistant licensed in accordance with this chapter. . . . (3) A physician assistant may diagnose, examine, and treat human conditions, ailments, diseases, injuries, or infirmities, either physical or mental, by any means, method, device, or instrumentality authorized by the supervising physician. "Mont. Code 37-20-403 (2012) Physician assistant as agent of supervising physician—degree of supervision required—scope of practice"

(1) A physician assistant may prescribe, dispense, and administer drugs to the extent authorized by the supervising physician. . . . (3) The prescribing and dispensing authority granted a physician assistant may include the following: (a) Prescribing, dispensing, and administration of Schedule III drugs . . . Schedule IV drugs . . . and Schedule V drugs . . . is authorized. (b) Prescribing, dispensing, and administration of Schedule II drugs . . . may be authorized for limited periods not to exceed 34 days. (c) Records on the dispensing and administration of scheduled drugs must be kept. . . . "Mont. Code 37-20-404 (2012) Prescribing and dispensing authority—discretion of supervising physician on limitation of authority"

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

### PRACTICE SETTINGS

#### MONTANA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Professional</th>
<th>Practice Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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 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>Long-term care facility</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>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NURSES

**Practical Nurse**

. . . (5) “Charge nurse” means the nurse who is in charge of patient and/or resident care during a nursing shift. An LPN may serve as a charge nurse in the absence of an RN in a long-term care facility . . . . Admin. Rules of Mont. 24.159.301 (2012)

**Definitions**

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


Admin. Rules of Mont. 24.159.1004 (2012) Standards Related to the Practical Nurse’s Application of the Nursing Process

Admin. Rules of Mont. 24.159.1204 (2012) Standards Related to the Registered Nurse’s Responsibility to Apply the Nursing Process


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