## STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice

### VIRGINIA

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

### MIDWIFE


. . . G. Notwithstanding any provision of law or regulation to the contrary, a nurse practitioner licensed by the Boards of Nursing and Medicine in the category of certified nurse midwife [may] hold[] a license for prescriptive authority. . . . Code of Va. § 54.1-2957.01 (2012) Prescription of certain controlled substances and devices by licensed nurse practitioners
NURSES
Nurse Practitioner
A. A nurse practitioner with prescriptive authority may prescribe only within the scope of a written practice agreement with a supervising physician to be submitted with the initial application for prescriptive authority. . . . 18 Va. Admin. Code 90-40-90 (2012) Practice agreement


Practical Nurse
. . . “Practical nursing” or “licensed practical nursing” means . . . the care of individuals or groups who are ill, injured, or experiencing changes in normal health processes; in the maintenance of health; in the prevention of illness or disease. . . . Practical nursing or licensed practical nursing is performed under the direction or supervision of a licensed medical practitioner, a professional nurse, registered nurse or registered professional nurse or other licensed health professional authorized by regulations of the Board. . . . Code of Va. § 54.1-3000 (2012) Definitions


. . . I. A prescriber may authorize, pursuant to a protocol approved by the Board of Nursing, the administration of vaccines to adults for immunization, when a practitioner with prescriptive authority is not physically present, by . . . (iii) licensed practical nurses under the immediate and direct supervision of a registered nurse. . . . Emergency medical services personnel shall provide documentation of the vaccines to be recorded in the Virginia Immunization Information System. . . . Code of Va. § 54.1-3408 (effective July 1, 2013) Professional use by practitioners

Registered Nurse
. . . “Professional nursing,” “registered nursing” or “registered professional nursing” means . . . the prevention of illness or disease . . . the administration of medications and treatments as prescribed by any person authorized by law to prescribe such medications and treatment. . . . Code of Va. § 54.1-3000 (2012) Definitions


A. Nursing tasks that shall not be delegated are those which are inappropriate for a specific, unlicensed person to perform on a specific patient after an assessment is conducted. . . . B. Nursing tasks that shall not be delegated to any unlicensed person are: 1. Activities involving nursing assessment . . . 5. Administration of medications except as specifically permitted by the Virginia Drug Control Act. . . . 18 Va. Admin. Code 90-20-460 (2012) Nursing tasks that shall not be delegated
I. A prescriber may authorize, pursuant to a protocol approved by the Board of Nursing, the administration of vaccines to adults for immunization, when a practitioner with prescriptive authority is not physically present, by (ii) registered nurses. A prescriber acting on behalf of and in accordance with established protocols of the Department of Health may authorize the administration of vaccines to any person by a nurse under the direction of an operational medical director when the prescriber is not physically present. Emergency medical services personnel shall provide documentation of the vaccines to be recorded in the Virginia Immunization Information System. Code of Va. § 54.1-3408 (effective July 1, 2013) Professional use by practitioners

PHARMACIST


I. A prescriber may authorize, pursuant to a protocol approved by the Board of Nursing, the administration of vaccines to adults for immunization, when a practitioner with prescriptive authority is not physically present, by (i) licensed pharmacists. A prescriber acting on behalf of and in accordance with established protocols of the Department of Health may authorize the administration of vaccines to any person by a pharmacist under the direction of an operational medical director when the prescriber is not physically present. Emergency medical services personnel shall provide documentation of the vaccines to be recorded in the Virginia Immunization Information System. Code of Va. § 54.1-3408 (effective July 1, 2013) Professional use by practitioners

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

A. Prior to initiation of practice, a physician assistant and his supervising physician shall submit a written protocol which spells out the roles and functions of the assistant. C. If the role of the assistant includes prescribing for drugs and devices, the written protocol shall include those schedules and categories of drugs and devices that are within the scope of practice and proficiency of the supervising physician. 18 Va. Admin. Code 85-50-101 (2012) Requirements for a protocol

The physician assistant shall not render independent health care and shall: 1. Perform only those medical care services that are within the scope of the practice and proficiency of the supervising physician as prescribed in the physician assistant's protocol. When a physician assistant is to be supervised by an alternate supervising physician outside the scope of specialty of the supervising physician, then the physician assistant's functions shall be limited to those areas not requiring specialized clinical judgment, unless a separate protocol for that alternate supervising physician is approved and on file with the board. 2. Prescribe only those drugs and devices as allowed. 18 Va. Admin. Code 85-50-115 (2012) Responsibilities of the physician assistant
A. A physician or a podiatrist may supervise assistants and delegate certain acts which constitute the practice of medicine to the extent and in the manner authorized by the Board. Each team of supervising physician and physician assistant shall identify the relevant physician assistant’s scope of practice, including, but not limited to, the delegation of medical tasks as appropriate to the physician assistant’s level of competence, the physician assistant’s relationship with and access to the supervising physician, and an evaluation process for the physician assistant’s performance. Such activities shall be set forth in a written practice supervision agreement between the assistant and the supervising health care provider and may include health care services which are educational, diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, or include treatment, but shall not include the establishment of a final diagnosis or treatment plan for the patient unless set forth in the written practice supervision agreement. Prescribing or dispensing of drugs may be permitted.

B. No assistant shall perform any delegated acts except at the direction of the licensee and under his supervision and control.

Code of Va. § 54.1-2952 (2012) Supervision of assistants by licensed physician, or podiatrist; services that may be performed by assistants; responsibility of licensee; employment of assistants

A. a licensed physician assistant shall have the authority to prescribe controlled substances as follows (iv) Schedules II through VI controlled substances on or after July 1, 2007. A licensed physician assistant shall have such prescriptive authority upon the provision to the Board of Medicine of such evidence that the assistant has entered into and is, at the time of writing a prescription, a party to a written agreement with a licensed physician or podiatrist which provides for the direction and supervision by such licensee of the prescriptive practices of the assistant. Such written agreements shall include the controlled substances the physician assistant is or is not authorized to prescribe and may restrict such prescriptive authority as deemed appropriate by the physician or podiatrist providing direction and supervision. B. It shall be unlawful for the assistant to prescribe controlled substances or devices pursuant to this section unless such prescription is authorized by the written agreement between the licensee and the assistant.

D. This section shall not prohibit a licensed physician assistant from administering controlled substances or receiving and dispensing manufacturers’ professional samples of controlled substances.


The supervising physician shall . . . 2. Be responsible for all invasive procedures. a. Under general supervision, a physician assistant . . . may perform . . . subcutaneous intramuscular or intravenous injection. 3. Be responsible for all prescriptions issued by the assistant and attest to the competence of the assistant to prescribe drugs and devices.

A. A physician assistant with prescriptive authority may prescribe only within the scope of the written protocol. B. The physician assistant may prescribe only those categories of drugs and devices included in the practice agreement as submitted for authorization. The supervising physician retains the authority to restrict certain drugs within these approved categories. C. The physician assistant . . . shall only . . . administer controlled substances in good faith for medical or therapeutic purposes within the course of his professional practice.

Approved drugs and devices

A. A physician assistant with prescriptive authority may prescribe only within the scope of the written protocol.
### STANDING ORDERS: Health Professionals & Immunization Practice
### PRACTICE SETTINGS
### VIRGINIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Professional</th>
<th>Practice Setting</th>
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</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>No such provider in the state</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>Hospital; health care system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Nurse</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
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<td>Registered Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacist</td>
<td>Reviewed immunization practice laws did not address practice settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>Hospital, including emergency department</td>
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**NURSES**

Nurse Practitioner

... Nurse practitioners may provide care to patients within a hospital or health care system. ... *18 Va. Admin. Code 90-30-122, amended by 2013 Va. Reg. Text 327171 (2013) Practice agreements*

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**

... [A] licensee is authorized to delegate and ... in a hospital, including its emergency department. ... *Code of Va. § 54.1-2952 (2012) Supervision of assistants by licensed physician, or podiatrist; services that may be performed by assistants; responsibility of licensee; employment of assistants*

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


Code of Va. § 54.1-2957.01 (2012) Prescription of certain controlled substances and devices by licensed nurse practitioners


Code of Va. § 54.1-2952 (2012) Supervision of assistants by licensed physician, or podiatrist; services that may be performed by assistants; responsibility of licensee; employment of assistants


Code of Va. § 54.1-3408 (effective July 1, 2013) Professional use by practitioners