



Wyoming State Board of Nursing
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OPINION: School Nurses
APPROVED DATE: July 2018
REVIEWED DATE:
REVISED DATE:
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
Practice Committee

An advisory opinion adopted by WSBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of WSBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and/or decrease risk.

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of APRN RN LPN CNA

ADVISORY OPINION
Assuring Safe Health Care in Schools and Alternate Settings

Intent of Advisory Opinion:

In accordance with W.S. 33-21-122 (c) (iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion on scope related to schools and alternate settings. The purpose of this opinion is to guide safe practice.

Introduction:

The purpose of this opinion is to clarify the role and responsibilities of the nurse in alternate settings such as schools, camps and residential treatment facilities. The school and community are the first line of public health. A licensed registered professional nurse is the ideal health care professional to provide comprehensive assessment and initiate individualized plans of care and provide feedback for a safe system. The WSBN supports a collaborative health model which best protects the fundamental public health and educational priority defined by the American Nurse

Association's position statement, *Assuring Safe, High Quality Health Care in Pre-K Through 12 Educational Setting*, March 2007.

The Board requests the assignment and daily availability of a licensed professional registered nurse (RN) for the central management and implementation of health services in schools and alternate settings. With the emergence of complex health issues and trends (asthma, allergens, school assailant safety, incivility, trauma, etc.), the Board states all children could benefit by receiving the support and services of a professional registered nurse to optimize their safety, well-being and capacity for learning.

The core functions of public health and school nursing are “*Assessment, Policy Development and Assurance*.” (ANA, 2007) It is within the scope of practice of an appropriately trained and competent RN to delegate and to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) certain tasks to assure the safest environment (see WSBN advisory on *Delegation*) and to provide education;

- A. There are institutional policies and procedures to guide this practice;
- B. The nurse and UAP have completed training and demonstrated continuing competency;
- C. The agency/facility maintains documentation on training and competency for each nurse and UAP;
- D. The medical care is provided under the orders of a physician, APRN or physician's assistant who may not be physically on site; and
- E. The patient's condition is assessed prior to, during, and after the procedure/administration to current standard of practice.

See attached policy statement from the American Association of Pediatrics, *The Role of the School Nurse in Providing Health Services (2008)* and the ANA document for more specific information and guidance in creating internal policies.

References:

American Association of Pediatrics. Position statement. *The Role of the School Nurse in Providing Health Services (2008)*. Itasca, Illinois.

American Association of Pediatrics. Position statement. *Guidance for the Administration of Medications in Schools (2009)*. Itasca, Illinois.

American Nurses Association. (2007). Position statement. *Assuring Safe, High Quality Health Care in Pre-K Through 12 Educational Setting*, March 2007. Silver Springs, MD.

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing. (2018) Official Advisory Opinions. Retrieved on July 5, 2018 from <https://nursing-online.state.wy.us/Default.aspx?page=56>.