



Wyoming State Board of Nursing
130 Hobbs Avenue, Suite B
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone (307) 777-7601 Fax (307) 777-3519
E-Mail: wsbn-info-licensing@wyo.gov
Home Page: <https://nursing-online.state.wy.us/>

OPINION: School Nurses
APPROVED DATE: July 2018
REVIEWED DATE:
REVISED DATE: January 2019
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.

Settings

A full-time licensed registered nurse administering all routine and emergency medications in alternate settings such as camps, residential treatment programs and schools is the best situation and the WSBN encourages all Wyoming school districts to employ registered nurses. When a registered nurse is not available, a licensed practical nurse may administer medications and health services utilizing the individual plan of care created by the registered nurse (who should be readily available at least by phone).

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, overdose, 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, attendance and capacity for learning. The nurse is expected follow evidence based standards of ethical nursing practice.

Education of unlicensed personnel by a licensed nurse to administer life-saving medications in a life-threatening emergency is especially appropriate. It is within the scope of nursing practice to provide education about medication administration to unlicensed assistive personnel or staff members of the setting if;

- A. There are institutional policies and procedures to guide this practice;
- B. The UAP completed training provided by the nurse and demonstrates continuing competency; and
- C. The agency/facility maintains documentation on training and competency for each nurse and UAP.

WSBN understands school nursing is a “specialized practice of public health nursing that protects and promotes student health, facilitates normal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence based practice, are the leaders that bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potentials” (*NASN, 2016, Appendix A*).

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.

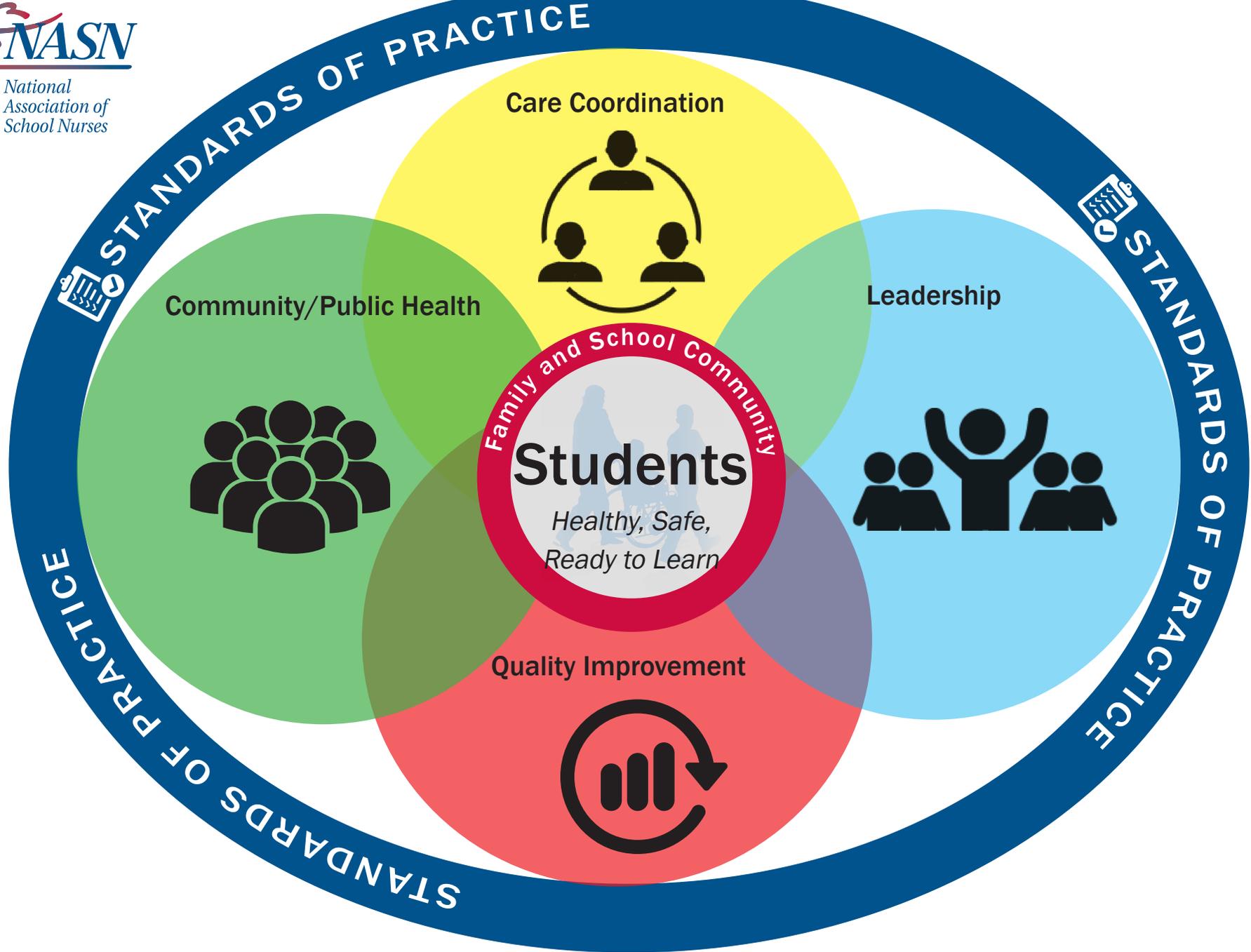
National Association of School Nurses. Delegation [position statement]. Retrieved on December 18, 2018 from <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-delegation>

National Association of School Nurses. Medication Administration in the School Setting [position statement]. Retrieved December 18, 2018 from <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-medication>

National Association of School Nurses. (2016). *Definition of school nursing*. Retrieved from <https://www.nasn.org/RoleCareer>

APPENDIX A: *Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice* (NASN, 2016)

Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice™



Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice™

NASN's *Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice* (the *Framework*) provides structure and focus for the key principles and components of current day, evidence-based school nursing practice. It is aligned with the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model that calls for a collaborative approach to learning and health (ASCD & CDC, 2014). Central to the *Framework* is student-centered nursing care that occurs within the context of the students' family and school community. Surrounding the students, family, and school community are the non-hierarchical, overlapping key principles of *Care Coordination*, *Leadership*, *Quality Improvement*, and *Community/Public Health*. These principles are surrounded by the fifth principle, *Standards of Practice*, which is foundational for evidence-based, clinically competent, quality care. School nurses daily use the skills outlined in the practice components of each principle to help students be healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

 <p>Standards of Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Competence • Clinical Guidelines • Code of Ethics • Critical Thinking • Evidence-based Practice • NASN Position Statements • Nurse Practice Acts • Scope and Standards of Practice 	 <p>Care Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Management • Chronic Disease Management • Collaborative Communication • Direct Care • Education • Interdisciplinary Teams • Motivational Interviewing/ Counseling • Nursing Delegation • Student Care Plans • Student-centered Care • Student Self-empowerment • Transition Planning 	 <p>Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy • Change Agents • Education Reform • Funding and Reimbursement • Healthcare Reform • Lifelong Learner • Models of Practice • Technology • Policy Development and Implementation • Professionalism • Systems-level Leadership 	 <p>Quality Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous Quality Improvement • Documentation/Data Collection • Evaluation • Meaningful Health/Academic Outcomes • Performance Appraisal • Research • Uniform Data Set 	 <p>Community/Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Care • Cultural Competency • Disease Prevention • Environmental Health • Health Education • Health Equity • Healthy People 2020 • Health Promotion • Outreach • Population-based Care • Risk Reduction • Screenings/Referral/Follow-up • Social Determinants of Health • Surveillance
---	--	---	---	--

ASCD & CDC. (2014). *Whole school whole community whole child: A collaborative approach to learning and health*. Retrieved from <http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/siteASCD/publications/wholechild/wsc-a-collaborative-approach.pdf>