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OPINION: Pharmaceutical Processes
APPROVED DATE: October 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

Scope Related to Common Pharmaceutical Tasks

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 pharmaceutical procedures. The purpose of this opinion is to guide safe practice.

Introduction:

Each discipline has defined scopes related to the common processes involving medications, whether prescribed or over the counter. The level of education is directly related to the allowed practice.

Certified Nurse Aides:

- Assist a patient to self medicate by opening pre-poured medication boxes
- Confirm a narcotic count with a licensed nurse in a setting where only one nurse exists

- Placed medicated barrier cream on a patient’s perineum as directed by the registered nurse and care plan
- Remove a nasal canula oxygen from a patient and replace it after cares (licensed nurse responsible for verification of placement and settings)
- Place a nasal canula on a patient when the oxygen tank flow meter has been pre-set by the licensed nurse
- Follow Opiate Overdose Emergency Treatment Act: Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-4-901 through -906
- Transport medications from a local pharmacy directly to a patient’s dwelling in a secured manner under the direction of the licensed nurse
- Certified Medication Aides (MA-C) may receive delegation by the Registered Nurse according to their scope of practice defined in Advisory Opinion “[Medication Assitant Certified - Role](#)”

Licensed Practical Nurses may receive delegation by the Registered Nurse to;

- Accept medications delivered by pharmacy on behalf of facility
- Administer an opiate antagonist in a suspected opiate overdose emergency
- Administer emergency medications if trained under ACLS or PALS
- Administer over the counter and prescribed medications (see Advisory Opinion LPN Scope and LPN IV-C Scope for more detail)
- Receive verbal, telephone, faxed, electronic or written orders from a provider
- Assist a patient to self medicate
- Authorizing the release of a refill as delegated to, by the provider
- Call a medication order from a provider into a pharmacy, when authorized by the provider
- Call, fax or submit electronically, a medication order from a provider into a pharmacy, after receiving, interpreting or clarifying drug orders
- Confirm a narcotic count with a CNA in a setting where only one nurse exists
- Confirm a narcotic count with a licensed nurse in a setting where only one registered nurse exists
- Distribute free sample medications to a patient as directed by the provider
- Follow Opiate Overdose Emergency Treatment Act: Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-4-901 through -906.
- Obtain or retrieve “floor” stock medications
- Placed medicated barrier cream on a patient’s perineum as directed by the registered nurse and care plan
- Provide drug information and education, document verbalization of education received
- Receiving, interpreting or clarifying drug orders via phone, fax or in person
- Reconstitute medication with a single solution
- Transport medications from a local pharmacy directly to a patient’s dwelling in a secured manner
- Waste narcotics according to facility policy and in a manner that supports safety measures for the community by decreasing unnecessary access

Registered Professional Nurses may;

- Accept medications delivered by pharmacy on behalf of facility
- Accept sample medication from a pharmaceutical representative on behalf of the provider and place into secured storage
- Administer an opiate antagonist in a suspected opiate overdose emergency
- Administer emergency medications
- Administer over the counter and prescribed medications
- Assist a patient to self medicate
- Authorizing the release of a refill as delegated to by the provider
- Call a medication order from a provider into a pharmacy, when authorized by the provider
- Call or submit electronically, a medication order from a provider into a pharmacy, after receiving, interpreting or clarifying drug orders,
- Confirm a narcotic count with a CNA in a setting where only one nurse exists
- Confirm a narcotic count with another licensed nurse in a setting where only one registered nurse exists
- Distribute free sample medications to a patient as directed by the provider
- Follow Opiate Overdose Emergency Treatment Act: Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-4-901 through -906.
- Document informed consent related to prescribed pharmaceutical orders
- May co-sign for students or newly graduated nurses after verifying documentation
- Obtain or retrieve “floor” stock medications
- Oversee the facility process for safe storage of stock medications and administration procedures
- Placed medicated barrier cream on a patient’s perineum as directed
- Provide drug information and education, assess and document understanding of education received
- Provide health education related to nutrition, vitamins, minerals; independently of a provider
- Receiving, interpreting or clarifying drug orders via phone, fax or in person from the provider
- Reconstitute medication with a single solution
- Re-package medications from a stock supply to single unit doses
- Transport medications from a local pharmacy directly to a patient’s dwelling in a secured manner
- Waste narcotics according to facility policy and in a manner that supports safety measures for the community by decreasing unnecessary access

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, in addition to all of the above, may also;

- Accept sample medication from a pharmaceutical representative
- Administer emergency medications
- Authorize a prescription or refill *within their population focus* and in conjunction with

- other Wyoming state statutes (if qualified DEA provider)
- Call or submit electronically, a medication order into a pharmacy *within their population focus* and in conjunction with other Wyoming state statutes (if qualified DEA provider)
- Distribute free sample medications to a patient *within their population focus* and in conjunction with other Wyoming state statutes (if qualified DEA provider)
- Follow all rules of prescribing as described in the Wyoming State Board of Pharmacy and the Drug Enforcement Agency and other relevant state statutes
- Follow Opiate Overdose Emergency Treatment Act: Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-4-901 through -906
- Prescribe hemp extracts in accordance with Wyoming Statute § 35-7-1063, Wyoming Statute § 35-7-1801 through -1803, Wyoming Statute § 35-7-1002 and HEA64 (if qualified DEA provider)
- Provide drug information and education, document risk and benefits and informed consent
- Prescribe related to FDA approved medications, herbal treatments, alternative treatments, and complementary medicine techniques or cures *within their population focus* and in conjunction with other Wyoming state statutes (if qualified DEA provider)
- Providing prescription drug orders via paper, phone, fax, electronic or in person *within their population focus* and in conjunction with other Wyoming state statutes (if qualified DEA provider)
- Reconstitute medication with multiple solutions, such as allergens
- **Shall** register and file prescription tracking program requirements identified in Wyoming Statute § 35-7-1025 and 1060 (if a qualified DEA provider). Contact the Wyoming State Board of Pharmacy.
- Transport medications for distribution to home visit patients in a safe and secure manner

Definitions:

Administer means the direct application of a drug, whether by injection, inhalation, ingestions, or any other means, to the body of a patient.

Automated dispensing device means a mechanical system that performs operations of activities.

Beyond use date means the date at which a compounded drug product should not be used.

Component means any ingredient used in compounding of a drug product including those that may not appear in the labeling

Compounding means the preparation, mixing, assembling, packaging and labeling of a drug. Compounding does not include reconstituting (as with saline or sterile water or adding flavoring).

Delivery means the actual, constructive or attempted transfer from one person to another of a drug.

Digital signature means an electronic identifier unique to the authorized signer.

Dispense means the interpretation, evaluation and implementation of a drug under a lawful order of a provider in a suitable container appropriately labeled for subsequent administration.

Distribute means the delivery of a drug other than by administration or dispensing.

Electronic prescription means a prescription that is generated electronically and transmitted through an electronic data file.

Labeling means the process of preparing and affixing a label to any drug container, exclusive of the labeling by a manufacturer, packager or distributor.

Manufacturing means the production, preparation, conversion or processing of a drug from substances of natural origin, by chemical or biological synthesis and includes packaging or labeling.

"Opiate related drug overdose" means a condition, including extreme physical illness, a decreased level of consciousness or respiratory depression resulting from the consumption or use of an opioid, or another substance with which an opioid was combined, that a reasonable person would believe to require medical assistance;

Ordering means a provider authorized under State and Federal law to prescribe.

Repackage means to prepare a single unit dose or unit of use package or traditional dispensing system package for dispensing pursuant to an existing order.

Single unit dose means a package that contains one unit of medication.

References

Wyoming State Board of Pharmacy. State of Wyoming Pharmacy Act, Rules and Regulation. Retrieved on July 2, 2018 from <http://pharmacyboard.wyo.gov/laws>.