

NH Board of Nursing

Position Statement and Clinical Practice Advisories Regarding the Role of the RN, LPN, and LNA in School Nursing

This document focuses on the NH Board of Nursing's oversight of school nurses. It is necessary for school nurses in public schools to realize that their workplaces are also regulated by both the NH Department of Education (NHDOE) and the NH Board of Pharmacy (NHBOP).

What is a school nurse?

A school nurse should hold a broad working knowledge of in-depth physical assessment and pathophysiology, and should be able to function independently. A school nurse supports student learning by managing and advocating for child and adolescent health and safety in the educational environment. The school nurse promotes optimal health, wellness, and independence of individuals within the school community. The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) law RSA 200:29, states that "a school nurse shall be a registered professional nurse currently licensed in New Hampshire."

What is the role of the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) in primary and secondary school settings?

When a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or LNA works in the public school setting, she or he must work under the supervision of the School Registered Nurse (RN) as per RSA 200:31. Supervision means that the RN assigns tasks and provides oversight. Supervision is normally provided on site, but may also be permitted off site under special circumstances like field trips as long as the LPN or LNA can directly contact an RN for consultation. If comprehensive nursing assessments and/or evaluations are required, this must be done by an RN in person because it is beyond the scope of practice for an LPN or LNA. See Ed 306.02 Technical Advisory.

Medication Administration

Can a school nurse give over-the-counter medications without a doctor's order?

Yes, however, the NHBON recommends that when a school nurse administers an OTC medication it is important that:

1. The school nurse does so in accordance with nursing knowledge, judgment, and skill **and**
2. The school nurse in public schools must follow the NHDOE administrative rule, Ed 311.02 which states "non-prescription medication shall be given only with the written request and permission of the parent and/or guardian" and must follow local policy and procedures.

Can a school nurse provide a single dose of prescription medication for a school field trip or extracurricular activity?

Yes. The NHBON in accordance with NH Board of Pharmacy allows for a single dose of medication to be transferred by the school nurse to a separate properly labeled container for use on field trips. Please

note that the NH Board of Pharmacy does not allow for the transfer of more than a single dose of medication because that would constitute the act of dispensing a drug, as per RSA 318:1 which states:

V. "Dispense" means to distribute, leave with, give away, dispose of, deliver, or sell one or more doses of a drug and shall include the transfer of more than a single dose of medication from one container holding more than a single dose of a drug."

The NH Board of Pharmacy advises individuals to direct questions relative to state and federal drug laws to the Board of Pharmacy by calling (603) 271-2350 and asking to speak with a compliance inspector.

The NHDOE rule Ed 311.02 states that "each local school board, with the advice of the school medical health advisor and school nurse shall establish specific policy and procedure to give protection and controls to the matter of medication in schools."

Can public school nurses delegate the administration of emergency medications to school staff or volunteers, when a child has a prescription of this medication, in the event that the RN or LPN is not available?

Yes. According to Nur 404, delegation is permitted under certain circumstances. It is important that the school nurse who delegates this task be familiar and in compliance with the regulations of Nur 404.01-404.07 and the policies and procedures of his/her employer.

Can school nurses delegate the task of instilling medications into G- and J-tubes?

Yes. According to Nur 404, delegation is permitted under certain circumstances. It is important that the school nurse who delegates this task be familiar and in compliance with the regulations of Nur 404.01-404.07 and the policies and procedures of his/her employer.

For more information, you can consult the following resources:

<http://www.education.nh.gov/standards/documents/medication.pdf>

http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school_health/health_laws.htm

http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school_health/health_laws_topic.htm

[https://nhsn3a18.wildapricot.org/Resources/Documents/NHSNA%20Standards%20of%20School%20Nurse%20Delegation%20012515%20Final%20\(1\)%20\(1\).pdf](https://nhsn3a18.wildapricot.org/Resources/Documents/NHSNA%20Standards%20of%20School%20Nurse%20Delegation%20012515%20Final%20(1)%20(1).pdf)

<https://nhsn3a18.wildapricot.org/Resources/Documents/NHSNA%20Position%20Statement%20Glucagon.pdf>