

Delegation of Medication Administration to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel

QUICK REFERENCE

The NC Board of Nursing (NCBON) has clarified that NC nursing laws and rules permit the Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to delegate the **technical task** of medication administration to the Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP). The **technical task** of medication administration is defined solely as giving a medication to a client via the appropriately ordered route and **is permitted ONLY with careful consideration** of applicable laws, rules, standards, agency policies and procedures, and after using all components of the NCBON Decision Tree for Delegation to UAP including education, competency validation, and appropriate supervision.

Before delegating the **technical task** of medication administration to UAP, the RN and LPN are accountable for understanding the laws, rules, standards, and agency policies and procedures applicable to medication administration in their specific practice setting. **ONLY** after application of all components of the NCBON Decision Tree for Delegation to UAP and **after careful consideration are they permitted to delegate**. If delegation of the **technical task** of medication administration to UAP is permitted by all applicable laws, rules, standards, and agency policies and procedures, then all nursing laws and rules apply.

Delegation of Technical Task of Medication Administration

A. Accepted routes for delegation:

- Oral
- Sublingual
- Buccal
- Ophthalmic
- Otic
- Nasal
- Inhalant
- Transdermal
- Vaginal
- Rectal

Topical (**Note:** Delegation of the application of topical medication to UAP for the purpose of wound debridement is **NOT permitted** within current standards of practice.)

B. Accepted injectable routes for delegation:

- Intradermal (ID)
- Subcutaneous (SQ)
- Intramuscular (IM)

C. Licensed nurse prohibited from delegating following routes:

- Intravenous (IV)
- Epidural/caudal
- Intrathecal
- Intraosseous
- Intraoral
- Cranial intraventricular
- Body cavity/organ other than stomach

Exception: May delegate via gastrostomy tube.



Steps Used To Decide if Delegating Technical Task of Medication Administration is Appropriate:

Step One:

Do **all** laws, rules, standards, and agency policies and procedures allow delegation of the technical task of medication administration to UAP?

NO ----- STOP, do not delegate!

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YES – Proceed to Step Two

Step Two:

Use [NCBON Decision Tree for Delegation to UAP](#) to determine if **ALL** criteria are met and to answer this question:

*Is delegation of the technical task of medication administration to UAP appropriate for **this** client, with **this** acuity level, with **this** individual UAP's knowledge and experience, and **now** (or in the time period being planned)?*

NO ----- STOP, do not delegate!

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YES – Proceed to delegate

(Need to refer to Decision Tree pages 2 & 3.)

[Teaching modules](#) are available on the NCBON website to assist the RN when teaching UAP the technical task of administering a medication and in validating UAP competency. While use of these specific modules is not required, they provide information regarding routes of administration, forms of medication, and steps required to successfully complete this task, all of which the RN must cover when providing medication administration education and training for UAP.

NOTE: This decision clarification **does not** change the education requirements stated in NC laws for Medication Aides in Long Term Care/Skilled Nursing Facilities, or for Medication Aides (Med Techs) in Adult Care Settings including Assisted Living and Group Homes, or any other setting where NC laws state medication administration education requirements for UAP.

Links to new and revised Position Statements:

[Delegation of Medication Administration to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel \(UAP\)](#)

[Delegation and Assignment](#)

[Assisting with Self Administration of Medications](#)

[Dialysis in the Acute Care, Community Center and Home Settings](#)

[Infusion Therapy: Access Procedures](#)

[Delegation: NA II Credentialed as EMT-I/P](#)

[Office Practice Setting – UAP Delegation](#)

[Wound Care: Assessment and Debridement](#)

