

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING

THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN THE DELEGATION OF ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS TO LNA/DIALYSIS TECHNICIANS POSITION STATEMENT

Definitions:

Dialysis Technician: Dialysis Technicians are members of a health care team that provide care to patients requiring hemodialysis treatment. Dialysis Technicians provide direct care to patients under the supervision and delegation of a Registered Nurse.

Preparation: The Dialysis Technician is certified by the national certifying body or has completed an educational program offered by a health care facility and has demonstrated an ability to provide safe care to dialysis patients.

Authority: Dialysis Technicians are not licensed in the State of Vermont but are licensed as Licensed Nursing Assistants (LNAs). They practice under the authority of the RN to delegate appropriate procedures.

Extracorporeal: The extracorporeal circuit is an extension of the patient's blood vessels outside of the body. The circuit carries the patient's blood from the access to the dialyzer, and back to the patient. Components of the extracorporeal circuit include the arterial bloodline, dialyzer, venous bloodline, and extracorporeal circuit monitors (Core curriculum for Dialysis Technicians 2001) (Contemporary Nephrology Nursing 1998)

The Board of Nursing's position on delegation states that the "practice-pervasive functions of assessment, evaluation and nursing judgment must not be delegated" and that "all decisions related to delegation of nursing tasks must be based on the fundamental principle of protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public." (NCSBN 1995)

The American Nephrology Nurse Association's (ANNA) position paper on Delegation of Nursing Care Activities states: Administration of medication is a nursing responsibility requiring knowledge of the indications, pharmacokinetic action, potential adverse reactions, correct dosage and contraindications, and it is beyond the scope of practice of unlicensed assistive personnel. Administration of medications by unlicensed assistive personnel shall be limited to those medications considered part of the routine hemodialysis treatment, that is, normal saline and heparin via the extracorporeal circuit and intradermal lidocaine. (ANNA 2003)

OPINION STATEMENT

The Board of Nursing supports the position of the American Nephrology Nurse Association (ANNA) as a framework the nurse can use in the delegation of medications to dialysis technicians.

This Position Statement represents the Board's current thinking. Position statements are not legally binding

Approved: April 2005