



WHAT IS NURSE DELEGATION?

As defined by the Washington State Department of Social Health and Services (DSHS):

"The Nurse Delegation Program, under Washington State law, allows nursing assistants working in certain settings to perform certain tasks--such as administration of prescription medications or blood glucose testing--normally performed only by licensed nurses. A registered nurse must teach and supervise the nursing assistant, as well as provide nursing assessments of the patient's condition."

WHEN IS NURSE DELEGATION IS REQUIRED?

- The client is unable to perform the **last step/get the medication where it needs to go**
- The client is **unaware that he/she is taking medication**
- The client has dementia or a cognitive impairment and **does not know how/when to ask for the appropriate "as needed" medications**
- The client requires the **caregiver to puncture the skin** for blood sugar monitoring or insulin administration

MEDICATION ASSISTANCE (DOES NOT REQUIRE NURSE DELEGATION)	MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION (REQUIRES NURSE DELEGATION)
<p>The Caregiver HELPS the client <u>self-administer</u> their own medications.</p> <p>Examples: Preparing the medications, opening a med container, handing the meds to the client, pouring, crushing, dissolving, reminding client to take their meds.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Client must be able to perform the "last step" for him or herself, and 2. Client must be aware he or she is taking medication 	<p>The Caregiver (CG) performs the <u>LAST STEP</u>:</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CG puts the medication in the client's mouth • CG applies to topical medication on the skin • CG punctures the skin for blood sugar checks • CG injects the insulin subcutaneously through the skin • CG pushes the canister down on an inhaler • CG pushes the nose spray to release the spray • CG applies to nebulizer or oxygen mask on the client • CG inserts the rectal suppository or enema

WHO CAN BE DELEGATED?

Caregivers who have an **ACTIVE** license:

- **NAR** (Nursing Assistant Registered)
- **HCA- C** (Home Care Aide Certified)
- **CNA** (Certified Nursing Assistant)

AND have taken the required certification courses:

- Nurse Delegation
- Diabetes*
- Core Basic/75hr OR Fundamentals (NAR)



WHAT IS NURSE DELEGATION?

WHAT CAN BE DELEGATED?	WHAT CANNOT BE DELEGATED?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral medication administration • Topical skin cream/ointment/powder • Topical patches • Blood glucose monitoring • Subcutaneous Insulin administration • Inhalation medications • Nebulizer treatments • Oxygen via nasal cannula or mask • Eye drops/ointments • Ear drops • Nose sprays/drops • Sublingual medications • Rectal suppository/Enema • Vaginal cream/suppository • Gastrostomy tube administration • Ostomy care (colostomy/ileostomy/urostomy) • In & Out Catheter/ Catheter Irrigation • Suprapubic catheter care • Hospice Comfort Kit • Simple 'non-sterile' dressing changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile procedures or processes • Injectable medications (except insulin and non-insulin injections for Diabetes) • Central line or IV maintenance • Acts that require nursing judgement <p>NURSE DELEGATION IS NOT NEEDED FOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal care – Medicated shampoos, chlorohexidine mouth rinse, topical lotions, indwelling catheter care, antiembolism stockings, emptying a colostomy bag, pericare, filing nails. • Basic first aid – Applying a bandage to a cut, reinforcing a bandage, administering epinephrine or Naloxone under the “Good Samaritan Law” RCW 4.24.300 • Medication assistance – Remind, coach, open, pour, CRUSH, dissolve, use of an enabler, mix with food or liquids. (Client must be aware the medication is in the food or liquid) WAC 246-888-020

For further Nurse Delegation Regulations and Laws, see Nurse Delegation Washington Administrative Code (WAC) [246-840-910](#) through [246-840-970](#).

Disclaimer: Information above are sourced from the *Washington State Department of Social Health and Services (DSHS)*. This information is intended for general guidance only. This information is not a substitute for current regulations and laws. Always seek current active regulations and laws by contacting *Washington State Department of Social Health and Services (DSHS)*.