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South Dakota Board of Nursing
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SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

4305 S. Louise Ave., Suite 201 I Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115
605-362-2760 I **https://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/**

Assignment and Supervision of Nursing Tasks to Medical Assistants by a Registered Nurse

The South Dakota Board of Nursing is authorized by the state of South Dakota, pursuant to SDCL 36-9-1.1, to safeguard life, health and the public welfare; and to protect citizens from unauthorized, unqualified and improper application of nursing practices.

The South Dakota Board of Nursing issues opinions as to what constitutes safe nursing practice. As such, an opinion is not a regulation of the Board and does not have the force and effect of law. An opinion is issued as a guideline to licensees who wish to engage in safe nursing practice, and to facilitate the delivery of safe, effective nursing care to the public.

Approval Date: May 11, 2022

The South Dakota Board of Nursing has received inquiries regarding RN supervision of medical assistants. The Board issued the following:

Practice Statement

It is within the scope of a registered nurse (RN), pursuant to SDCL 36-9-3 (7) (11), to assign and supervise nursing tasks to medical assistants in ambulatory or outpatient settings.

Purpose

The following guidelines are intended to promote safe assignments of nursing tasks to medical assistants.

Guidelines

A registered nurse may assign nursing tasks and supervise a medical assistant provided:

- The agency allows a medical assistant to provide nursing services in the practice setting;
- The medical assistant is certified with the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) or American Medical Technologists (AMT);
- Assigned nursing tasks are consistent with Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) standards, with the exclusion of IV therapy;
- The medical assistant has demonstrated competency to perform the assigned nursing tasks;
- The supervising registered nurse is readily available either in person or via electronic communication.

National Medical Assistant Verification Sites

https://www.aama-ntl.org/employers
https://americanmedtech.org/Verify

Reference

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). (2022). *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Medical Assisting.* Accessed April 26, 2022 from: https://caahep.org/CAAHEP/media/Accreditation-Action-Reports/2022-03_MA_BoD-Approved_FINAL-STANDARDS-w-App-A.pdf.

Applicable South Dakota Nursing Law

36-9-3. Practice of registered nurse