

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 78—ASSEMBLYMEN DINI, ANDERSON, PRICE, BACHE,
BUCKLEY, CHOWNING, GIBBONS, GIUNCHIGLIANI, GOLDWATER,
HUMKE, KOIVISTO, MARVEL AND PERKINS

FEBRUARY 9, 2001

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Authorizes nurses to accept direction from physicians' assistants.
(BDR 54-153)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to health care; revising the definitions of “practice of practical nursing” and “practice of professional nursing” to specify that a nurse may accept direction from a physician’s assistant; authorizing a registered nurse to possess and administer certain drugs and medicines at the direction of a physician’s assistant; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** NRS 632.017 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 632.017 “Practice of practical nursing” means the performance of
3 selected acts in the care of the ill, injured or infirm under the direction of a
4 registered professional nurse, an advanced practitioner of nursing, a
5 licensed physician, *a licensed physician’s assistant*, a licensed dentist or a
6 licensed podiatric physician, not requiring the substantial specialized skill,
7 judgment and knowledge required in professional nursing.
8 **Sec. 2.** NRS 632.018 is hereby amended to read as follows:
9 632.018 “Practice of professional nursing” means the performance of
10 any act in the observation, care and counsel of the ill, injured or infirm, in
11 the maintenance of health or prevention of illness of others, in the
12 supervision and teaching of other personnel, in the administration of
13 medications and treatments as prescribed by an advanced practitioner of
14 nursing, a licensed physician, *a licensed physician’s assistant*, a licensed
15 dentist or a licensed podiatric physician, requiring substantial specialized
16 judgment and skill based on knowledge and application of the principles of
17 biological, physical and social science, but does not include acts of medical
18 diagnosis or prescription of therapeutic or corrective measures.



1 **Sec. 3.** NRS 454.213 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 454.213 A drug or medicine referred to in NRS 454.181 to 454.371,
3 inclusive, may be possessed and administered by:
4 1. A practitioner.
5 2. A physician's assistant at the direction of his supervising physician
6 or a licensed dental hygienist acting in the office of and under the
7 supervision of a dentist.
8 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a registered nurse
9 licensed to practice professional nursing or licensed practical nurse, at the
10 direction of a prescribing physician, *physician's assistant*, dentist,
11 podiatric physician or advanced practitioner of nursing, or pursuant to a
12 chart order, for administration to a patient at another location.
13 4. In accordance with applicable regulations of the board, a registered
14 nurse licensed to practice professional nursing or licensed practical nurse
15 who is:
16 (a) Employed by a health care agency or health care facility that is
17 authorized to provide emergency care, or to respond to the immediate
18 needs of a patient, in the residence of the patient; and
19 (b) Acting under the direction of the medical director of that agency or
20 facility who works in this state.
21 5. An intermediate emergency medical technician or an advanced
22 emergency medical technician, as authorized by regulation of the state
23 board of pharmacy and in accordance with any applicable regulations of:
24 (a) The state board of health in a county whose population is less than
25 100,000;
26 (b) A county board of health in a county whose population is 100,000 or
27 more; or
28 (c) A district board of health created pursuant to NRS 439.370 in any
29 county.
30 6. A respiratory therapist employed in a health care facility. The
31 therapist may possess and administer respiratory products only at the
32 direction of a physician.
33 7. A dialysis technician, under the direction or supervision of a
34 physician or registered nurse only if the drug or medicine is used for the
35 process of renal dialysis.
36 8. A medical student or student nurse in the course of his studies at an
37 approved college of medicine or school of professional or practical
38 nursing, at the direction of a physician and:
39 (a) In the presence of a physician or a registered nurse; or
40 (b) Under the supervision of a physician or a registered nurse if the
41 student is authorized by the college or school to administer the drug or
42 medicine outside the presence of a physician or nurse.
43 A medical student or student nurse may administer a dangerous drug in the
44 presence or under the supervision of a registered nurse alone only if the
45 circumstances are such that the registered nurse would be authorized to
46 administer it personally.
47 9. Any person designated by the head of a correctional institution.
48 10. An ultimate user or any person designated by the ultimate user
49 pursuant to a written agreement.



- 1 11. A nuclear medicine technologist, at the direction of a physician
2 and in accordance with any conditions established by regulation of the
3 board.
- 4 12. A radiologic technologist, at the direction of a physician and in
5 accordance with any conditions established by regulation of the board.
- 6 13. A chiropractic physician, but only if the drug or medicine is a
7 topical drug used for cooling and stretching external tissue during
8 therapeutic treatments.
- 9 14. A physical therapist, but only if the drug or medicine is a topical
10 drug which is:
 - 11 (a) Used for cooling and stretching external tissue during therapeutic
12 treatments; and
 - 13 (b) Prescribed by a licensed physician for:
 - 14 (1) Iontophoresis; or
 - 15 (2) The transmission of drugs through the skin using ultrasound.
- 16 15. In accordance with applicable regulations of the state board of
17 health, an employee of a residential facility for groups, as defined in NRS
18 449.017, pursuant to a written agreement entered into by the ultimate user.
- 19 16. A veterinary technician at the direction of his supervising
20 veterinarian.
- 21 17. In accordance with applicable regulations of the board, a registered
22 pharmacist who:
 - 23 (a) Is trained in and certified to carry out standards and practices for
24 immunization programs;
 - 25 (b) Is authorized to administer immunizations pursuant to written
26 protocols from a physician; and
 - 27 (c) Administers immunizations in compliance with the “Standards of
28 Immunization Practices” recommended and approved by the United States
29 Public Health Service Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

