

# NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

## ADVISORY OPINION

### GUIDELINESS FOR CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS DELIVERING MEDICATIONS PREPARED AND PACKAGED BY THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CENTRAL PHARMACY THAT ARE DESIGNATED AS KEEP ON PERSON MEDICATIONS TO INMATES IN LOCK DOWN UNITS

It is the opinion of the Nevada State Board of Nursing that a person who is certified as a nursing assistant in Nevada may deliver medications prepared and sealed in packages by the Nevada Department of Corrections Central Pharmacy that are designated as Keep on Person medications to inmates in lock down units within the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) using the following guidelines.

The Chief Nursing Officer of the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) shall have written policies and procedures, and documented competence in place that addresses the following:

1. A registered nurse supervisor will maintain responsibility and accountability for all medications delivered by the CNA and for determining if medication delivery by the CNA:
  - Is considered safe and routine based on the specific medication and inmate,
  - Poses little potential hazard for the CNA or the inmate,
  - Can be performed with a predictable outcome,
  - Does not require a nursing assessment, interpretation or decision-making or patient education at the time of delivery,
  - Does not require the CNA to unseal any medications packaged by pharmacy,
  - Does not require a substantial amount of scientific knowledge and technical skill,
  - Does not include tasks or equipment that require a nursing license to perform,
  - Does not require the CNA to verify that the sealed bags contain the medication prescribed to the inmate,
  - Has been signed off on appropriate facility forms by a licensed nurse as being the correct medication, the correct dose, and the correct route for the correct inmate,
  - The medication is not a controlled substance, dangerous drug or poison, and
  - The medication is designated on the NDOC formulary as a Keep on Person medication.
  
2. The roles and responsibilities of the CNA while delivering medications to an inmate includes:
  - Adherence to personal and inmate standards of safety,
  - Emergency procedures to be followed when directed by safety personnel,
  - Critical communication between the CNA, safety personnel, and the RN supervisor,
  - Maintenance of professional boundaries,
  - Adherence to and protection of inmate rights,
  - Be aware of emergency contingency planning,
  - Adherence to the limitations and restrictions regarding the role and duties of the CNA during delivery of sealed medications,

- Obtaining documentation of delivery on forms provided by the facility, and
  - The CNA may not perform any other functions of a CNA while actively delivering medications.
3. Prior to delivering medications, a registered nurse will ensure the CNA has the following available:
- The name and contact information for the supervising RN on duty during delivery,
  - A written medication delivery sheet identifying inmates who are to receive a sealed medication bag by name, inmate number and location,
  - Appropriate supplies and equipment necessary for the delivery, and
  - A qualified member of the security personnel who will accompany the CNA during deliveries.

**Rationale:**

When assigning a CNA the task of delivering sealed medication bags to inmates at the NDOC, the RN always maintains accountability for the overall provision of nursing care and is responsible for the ongoing supervision and evaluation of the assigned task following the accepted standard of care which would be provided by a reasonable and prudent nurse. Nursing assistants are certified by the Nevada State Board of Nursing (NSBN) and perform specific tasks and skills consistent with their training and documented competency. CNA practice is under the regulatory authority and oversight of the NSBN to ensure public protection and safety. With the appropriate documented training and facility support, a CNA may safely deliver sealed bags of Keep on Person medications to inmates in locked units of the NDOC that have been prepared by the NDOC Pharmacy and have been verified and signed off by a registered nurse. This Advisory Opinion does not apply to any setting, facility, agency or entity other than the NDOC.

References:

Registered Nurses

NAC 632.212 Duties included; competency required.

NAC 632.222 Delegation and supervision of nursing care.

NAC 632.224 Supervision of others; duties of chief nurse;

CNA Skills Guidelines

Approved by the CNA Advisory Committee: 02/02/12

Approved by the Nevada State Board of Nursing: 03/21/12