







*The Authority for Certain Clinical Tasks Performed By Unlicensed Patient Care Technicians and LPNs/LVNs in the Hemodialysis Setting: A Review*

**State Boards of Nursing – Delegation Actions (continued)**

State	Can PCT Administer Heparin?	Can PCT Access Central Line Catheter?	Can LPN/LVN Access Central Line Catheter?	Authority/Prohibitor
Delaware	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursing regulations prohibit delegation of medication administration by unlicensed assistive personnel.</li> <li>Nursing regulations permit LPNs to administer IV meds via peripheral and central lines.</li> </ul>
District Of Columbia	Delegation	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed regulations.</li> <li>Nursing regulations permit LPNs to administer IV meds via central lines.</li> </ul>
Florida	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing regulations permit LPNs a limited scope of IV medication duties.</li> </ul>
Georgia	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technicians may administer saline but not heparin; Board of Pharmacy regulation lists heparin as a dangerous drug.</li> <li>Only licensed nurses may initiate and discontinue hemodialysis via central line.</li> </ul>
Hawaii	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursing delegation rules prohibit IV administration of medications by unlicensed assistive personnel.</li> <li>Broad delegation applies to LPNs accessing central line catheters.</li> </ul>
Idaho	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing rules prohibit delegating IV therapy medication administration or sterile procedures to unlicensed assistive personnel.</li> <li>Central line access is within the scope of duties of LPNs.</li> </ul>
Illinois	No	Delegation	Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursing delegation applies to unlicensed assistive personnel and LPNs regarding central line catheters.</li> <li>LPNs prohibited from administering IV heparin.</li> </ul>
Indiana	Delegation	Delegation	Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing is silent on delegation of specific duties.</li> </ul>
Iowa	Delegation	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities and functions which are beyond the scope of practice of LPNs may not be delegated to unlicensed assistive personnel.</li> </ul>
Kansas	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPN IV therapy certification requirement permits LPNs to maintain the patency of central and peripheral IV lines with heparin or normal saline.</li> </ul>
Kentucky	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technician regulation specifies heparin administration; prohibits central line access.</li> <li>LPN nursing regulation permits LPNs to access central line catheters.</li> </ul>
Louisiana	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing Declaratory Statement on delegating heparin administration to dialysis technicians; accessing central lines may not be delegated to unlicensed assistive personnel.</li> <li>RN may delegate dialysis via central lines to LPNs.</li> </ul>
Maine	Delegation	Delegation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing position statement appears to permit broad delegation to unlicensed assistive personnel in dialysis setting.</li> <li>LPNs may flush peripheral or central intravenous catheter and intermittent device with premixed heparin solution or saline.</li> </ul>
Maryland	Yes	Delegation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technician law and regulation does not list specific duties; refers to delegation.</li> <li>Specific nursing regulation permits LPNs to access central lines.</li> </ul>
Massachusetts	Yes	Delegation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESRD facility licensing rules permit LPNs and technicians trained in chronic dialysis to initiate and terminate dialysis and administer anticoagulant agents; central lines are not mentioned.</li> </ul>

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### State Boards of Nursing – Delegation Actions (continued)

State	Can PCT Administer Heparin?	Can PCT Access Central Line Catheter?	Can LPN/LVN Access Central Line Catheter?	Authority/Prohibitor
Michigan	Delegation	Delegation	Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Nurse Practice Act. Delegation rules apply.</li> </ul>
Minnesota	Delegation	Delegation	Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursing delegation applies to unlicensed assistive personnel and LPNs.</li> </ul>
Mississippi	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis nursing regulations permit dialysis technicians to administer heparin; not permitted to access central line catheters.</li> <li>Nursing regulations permit LPNs to access central line catheters in hemodialysis.</li> </ul>
Missouri	Delegation	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad nursing delegation rules apply.</li> <li>LPN IV certification requirement.</li> </ul>
Montana	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing Hemodialysis Rules for unlicensed assistive personnel and LPNs permit heparin administration.</li> <li>LPNs and central lines; "Under direct supervision a competent practical nurse may access, draw blood, flush with a normal saline solution or a specific heparin flush solution, and change dressings of hemodialysis central venous catheters."</li> </ul>
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing dialysis technician rules permit heparin administration and permit dialysis technicians to dialyze via central line catheters.</li> <li>Nebraska adopts ANNA statement on use of unlicensed assistive personnel in dialysis.</li> </ul>
Nevada	Yes	Delegation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCTs may administer IV medications under the direction or supervision of a physician or RN only if the drug or medicine is used for the process of renal dialysis.</li> </ul>
New Hampshire	Delegation	Delegation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad nursing delegation rules apply.</li> <li>LPN required IV therapy course.</li> </ul>
New Jersey	Delegation	Delegation	Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A registered professional nurse may delegate selected nursing tasks to LPNs and ancillary nursing personnel (including aids, assistants, attendants, and technicians).</li> </ul>
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing rules permit heparin administration; CHT; II may dialyze via central line catheters.</li> </ul>
New York	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing Position Statement on unlicensed assistive personnel and LPNs in dialysis facilities.</li> </ul>
North Carolina	Delegation	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing dialysis rules for unlicensed assistive personnel permit heparin administration.</li> </ul>
North Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing dialysis technician rules permit heparin administration; prohibit PCTs from accessing central line catheters.</li> </ul>
Ohio	Yes	Delegation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technician statute permits heparin administration and is silent on central line catheters.</li> <li>LPN IV therapy certification rules permit LPNs to access central line catheters.</li> </ul>
Oklahoma	No	No	Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursing delegation rules prohibit the delegation of medication administration to unlicensed assistive personnel.</li> <li>Nursing delegation rules apply to LPNs.</li> </ul>
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technician regulations permit heparin administration and permit accessing central line catheters.</li> <li>LPNs may access central line catheters if properly trained.</li> </ul>

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**State Boards of Nursing – Delegation Actions (continued)**

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Pennsylvania	No	Delegation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing regulations permit an RN to delegate medication administration only to a nursing student and does not specify or include unlicensed assistive personnel.</li> </ul>
Rhode Island	Delegation	Delegation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad nursing delegation rules.</li> <li>No prohibitions on LPNs administering IV medications or accessing central line catheters.</li> </ul>
South Carolina	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nurse Practice Act prohibits delegation of medication administration to unlicensed assistive personnel.</li> <li>Board of Nursing Position Statement: LPNs may access central lines.</li> </ul>
South Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technician regulations permit heparin administration; prohibit PCTs from accessing central line catheters.</li> </ul>
Tennessee	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nurse Practice Act prohibits unlicensed persons from administering medications.</li> <li>Nursing Advisory Opinion defines LPN scope of practice in dialysis setting.</li> </ul>
Texas	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technician regulations permit heparin administration.</li> <li>LVN IV therapy course required to administer IV meds via peripheral and central lines.</li> </ul>
Utah	Delegation	Delegation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad nursing delegation language applies.</li> </ul>
Vermont	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing position statement permitting dialysis technicians to administer heparin; no specific mention of central lines.</li> <li>The Vermont Board of Nursing supports the position of ANNA as a framework the nurse can use in the delegation of medications to dialysis technicians.</li> <li>Board of Nursing position statement: may not delegate to an LPN the administration of medications via central line catheters.</li> </ul>
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technician statute permits heparin administration.</li> <li>IV therapy not addressed in Board of Nursing rules; appears to be within the scope of duties of LPN.</li> </ul>
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technician statute permits heparin administration and permits accessing central line catheters.</li> <li>Board of Nursing Interpretive Statement permitting LPNs to administer meds via central lines.</li> </ul>
West Virginia	Yes	Delegation	Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis technician statute permits heparin administration and is not specific on central line access – “preparation and initiation of dialysis access sites.”</li> <li>LPNs are not prohibited from accessing central lines; this duty may be delegated by RN.</li> </ul>
Wisconsin	Delegation	Delegation	Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Position statement on delegation applies to unlicensed assistive personnel and LPNs.</li> </ul>
Wyoming	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Nursing rules do not permit the delegation of medication administration.</li> <li>Board of Nursing Advisory opinion permits LPNs only to perform hemodialysis and administer medications via peripheral and central lines; requires IV therapy course; specific to LPN, no mention of unlicensed assistive personnel.</li> </ul>

# ANNA

## American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) Position Statement: Delegation of Nursing Care Activities

The American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) believes every patient has the right to professional nursing care that encompasses all aspects of the nursing process and meets or exceeds the ANNA Nephrology Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions for Coverage. The practice of each nurse must comply with the scope of practice, regulations/laws, and licensure requirements of the state in which they are employed. The care of each patient includes, but is not limited to, assessment of patient needs, the development of a comprehensive interdisciplinary patient specific plan of care, implementation of nursing interventions, and the monitoring and evaluation of patient outcomes. The ultimate goal of the nursing process is to effect positive patient outcomes in the most cost effective way. ANNA recognizes that achievement of favorable patient outcomes is a collaborative effort between all members of the interdisciplinary team.

### It is the position of ANNA that:

- The RN uses critical thinking and professional judgment when following the Five Rights of Delegation, to be sure that the delegation or assignment is:
  1. The right task.
  2. Under the right circumstances.
  3. To the right person.
  4. With the right directions and communications.
  5. Under the right supervision and evaluation.(Joint Statement on Delegation American Nurses Association (ANA) and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN))
- The registered nurse must never delegate a nursing care activity that requires:
  - a. The knowledge and expertise derived from completion of a nursing education program and the specialized skill, judgment and decision-making of a registered nurse
  - b. Complex observation, critical decision-making, exercise of nursing judgment, or repeated nursing assessments.
  - c. An understanding of the core nephrology nursing principles necessary to recognize and manage real or potential complications that may result in an adverse outcome to the health and safety of the patient.
- The registered nurse is accountable for the:
  - a. Safety of the patient.
  - b. Nursing process.
  - c. Patient assessment.
  - d. Delegation of nursing tasks appropriate to the delegates' documented knowledge, skills, cultural competence, experience, and abilities, within the scope of practice, and the licensure requirements in effect in the state in which the nurse is employed.
- Delegation of nursing care activities to licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPNs/LVNs) and/or certified dialysis patient care technicians (PCT) shall comply with the following criteria:
  - a. The registered nurse must complete an assessment of the patient's nursing care needs prior to delegating any nursing intervention.
  - b. The registered nurse shall be accountable and responsible for all delegated nursing care activities or interventions, and she/he must remain present in the patient care area for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the patient's response to the therapy.
  - c. The patient care activities must be within the licensure and/or certification requirements for the LPN/LVN or PCT, practice setting, scope of practice, and the licensure requirements in effect in the state in which the nurse is employed. Additional specific facility/agency policies and procedures related to delegation may also apply.
  - d. The registered nurse shall have either instructed the LPN/LVN or PCT in the delegated nursing care activity or verified the individual's competency to perform the activity. Persons to whom tasks are delegated should have the opportunity to ask questions and/or request clarification of expectations.
  - e. Clinical competency of these individual's will be documented and available, and verified at least annually.
  - f. Administration of medication is a nursing responsibility requiring knowledge of the indications, pharmacokinetic action, potential adverse reactions, correct dosage and contraindications, and, in general, is beyond the scope of practice of PCT. Administration of medications by PCTs shall be limited to those medications considered part of the routine hemodialysis treatment, that is, normal saline and heparin via the extracorporeal circuit, intradermal lidocaine, and oxygen by nasal cannula, as allowed by the scope of practice, and licensure requirements in effect in the state in which the nurse or PCT is employed.



## American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) Position Statement: Delegation of Nursing Care Activities (continued)

- g. Administration of any blood products and/or intravenous medications by infusion is a nursing responsibility and beyond the scope of practice of the PCT.
- The registered nurse is legally accountable and clinically responsible for the complete documentation of the entire nursing process. When certain aspects of the nursing care activities or interventions are delegated to other personnel, the registered nurse retains the legal accountability and clinical responsibility for these activities.

### Background and Rationale

The relationship between the registered nurse and the patient constitutes a legal and binding contract. The existence of this contract has been established through case law.

ANNA recognizes potential contributions to the care of nephrology patients by LPNs/LVNs and PCTs. The scope of practice of the registered nurse in the state where the nurse is employed may limit delegation of nursing care activities or interventions to these licensed and certified personnel.

### References

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**Adopted by the ANNA Board of Directors in February 1986**  
**Revised and/or reaffirmed biennially from 1987-2012**  
**Most recently revised: November 2012**  
**ANNA Position Statements are reviewed and reaffirmed biennially.**

**Source:** American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA). (2012). *Position statement: Delegation of nursing care activities*. Pitman, NJ: Author. Retrieved from <http://annanurse.org/advocacy/resources-and-tools/position-statements>