



## IV HYDRATION

### POSITION STATEMENT

The Mississippi Board of nursing is a consumer protection agency with the authority to regulate the practice of nursing provided for by Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Title 73, Chapter 15.

A position statement is a scope of practice determination made by the Board, as to whether performance of an action by a licensed nurse is within acceptable standards. Position statements are administrative and educational tools that can be used to assist providers, licensed nurses, and other interested parties in scope of practice determinations. Position statements of the Mississippi Board of Nursing are formulated in response to the Board's legally mandated charge to protect the public through safe nursing practice.

### DESCRIPTION

IV therapy is a learned skill practiced by many nurses. However, performing this skill outside of a traditional healthcare setting requires careful consideration to ensure safety and compliance with regulations. When delivering IV hydration services in non-traditional settings, such as mobile units or wellness clinics, the practice must align with applicable regulations, prevailing standards of care, and national nursing guidelines specific to IV therapy.

A valid provider order is necessary when initiating IV therapy services, including the administration of medications like isotonic IV fluids. Nurses are responsible for verifying and clarifying any orders or treatment regimens that appear inaccurate, non-efficacious, or contraindicated. If a nurse has concerns, they must consult with the appropriate licensed practitioner and inform the ordering provider if the decision is made not to administer the prescribed treatment.

### SCOPE OF PRACTICE

**RN Role:** Registered Nurses (RNs) may administer prescribed IV hydration, nutrient therapies, and medications as long as there is a valid order and a completed history and physical examination performed by a physician, NP, or PA. Standing orders are not acceptable substitutes for individualized orders and assessments, as they do not address the specific health needs of each patient.

**LPN Role:** Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) participate in the nursing process as assigned and must be supervised by an RN, physician, NP, or PA. Under appropriate supervision, LPNs may assist in administering prescribed IV hydration, nutrient therapies, and medications. See Administrative Code, Part 2830, Chapter 2 Functions of the Licensed Practical Nurse, Rule 2.4 Scope of Practice – IV Therapy.

## SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RN AND LPN ROLES:

1. Both RNs and LPNs must have an individualized prescription/order for the treatment, written by a physician, NP, or PA, and a completed client history and physical to confirm the appropriateness of the procedure.
2. Nurses must possess documented knowledge, skills, and competency to safely administer prescribed IV hydration, nutrient therapies, and medications.
3. Agencies or businesses offering IV services must establish and maintain on-site policies and procedures for the safe administration of IV hydration, nutrient therapies, medications, and emergency interventions.
4. Nurses must practice within the scope of their highest active licensure.
  - Regardless of their employment role, title, status, or position description, licensed nurses are accountable for all aspects of practice outlined in the Nursing Practice Act and Administrative Code Rules. This includes, but is not limited to, the responsibility for assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating patient care within the full scope of their highest level of active licensure, approval, or recognition. Employment roles and position descriptions do not diminish or alter this responsibility and accountability. While employers may impose restrictions or limitations on specific activities or tasks, they cannot extend the legal scope of practice or modify the legally-defined standards and components of nursing practice.

## ROLE OF THE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE (APRN) IN IV HYDRATION

1. **Population Alignment**
  - The client population must fall within the defined scope of the APRN's certification and clinical practice.
2. **Standards of Care**
  - APRNs with diagnostic and prescriptive authority are responsible for adhering to current clinical standards and evidence-based practice.
  - It is **not** within the APRNs scope of practice to compound drugs.
3. **Required Documentation Should Reflect:**
  - A thorough **review of the client's medical history and records**, confirming no contraindications to proposed therapies.
  - A comprehensive **initial assessment** evaluating the client's current health status.
  - A clearly stated **diagnosis** supported by clinical findings and appropriate indications for IV hydration or other prescribed interventions.
  - A detailed **treatment plan**, including referral or escalation protocols for conditions beyond the capabilities of the current practice setting.
  - Ongoing documentation of the **client's response** to therapy.
  - Evidence of **client education** provided before, during, and after the procedure, including follow-up instructions.

## **SCOPE OF PRACTICE DECISIONS:**

- The activity or intervention is authorized by a valid order.
- Standing orders cannot authorize the person carrying out the order to exercise independent medical judgement.
- The patient's record is thoroughly reviewed, an appropriate nursing assessment of the patient is conducted, and no contraindications exist to the ordered treatment.
- Administration and documentation of the intervention are accurate and complete in the patient's record, including the evaluation and documentation of the patient's response to the treatment.
- The nurse is prepared and capable of instituting nursing interventions to resolve an untoward event/reaction that occurs as a result of the administration of IV therapies.
- Implementation of measures to prevent exposure to infectious pathogens and communicable conditions.
- The RN shall practice in compliance with all federal laws and regulations, and all Mississippi (MS) laws and regulations including but not limited to, the MS Board of Nursing, the MS Board of Pharmacy, and the MS Medical Licensure Board. All nurses licensed to practice nursing in Mississippi (MS) must adhere to the Nursing Practice Act (NPA) and Board rules, Food and Drug Administration, and the Federal Trade Commission as well as other regulations pertinent to the setting.
- It is **not** within the scope of an RN, APRN, or LPN to compound drugs.

## **REFERENCES:**

Georgia Board of Nursing IV Hydration Position Statement -  
[https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/iv\\_hydration\\_position\\_statement\\_04012024.pdf](https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/iv_hydration_position_statement_04012024.pdf)

Johnson, P. (2023). *IV hydration notes* [Unpublished manuscript]. Mississippi Board of Nursing.

North Carolina BON Position Statement –  
<https://www.ncbon.com/sites/default/files/documents/2024-03/ps-iv-hydration-clinics.pdf>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2024, November). *Compounding and the FDA: Questions and answers*. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/human-drug-compounding/compounding-and-fda-questions-and-answers>

## **HISTORY**

Original: April 11, 2025

Updated: October 10, 2025