



Hemodialysis

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.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Dialysis is more than a technical skill or procedure. It requires appropriate assessment, planning, intervention and evaluation skills as well as the knowledge, judgment and decision-making abilities of the nurse.

Registered Nurse

The appropriately prepared Registered Nurse may perform dialysis. Preparation and administration of patient medications and initiation of IV Therapy (including initiating dialysis at the access) may not be delegated to unlicensed persons by the nurse, nor may the nurse supervise persons who have been delegated such task by other health professionals. The Rules and Regulations regulating the practice of nursing in Mississippi states that the Registered Nurse shall be held accountable for the quality and quantity of nursing care given to patients rendered by self or others being supervised. The Registered Nurse may:

1. Assign specific nursing responsibilities to other qualified personnel;
2. Assign the duties of administration of patient medications to other licensed personnel only (either a Registered Nurse or a Licensed Practical Nurse, or one authorized by a temporary permit to practice) except as outlined in Chapter VI of the Rules and Regulations for Certified Hemodialysis Technicians; and
3. Assign the duties of giving patient treatments to licensed nurses and/or auxiliary workers based upon knowledge of their educational preparation and experience.

Licensed Practical Nurse

The appropriately prepared Licensed Practical Nurse may assist in the performance of hemodialysis in accordance with Chapter IV, Section 4, of the Mississippi Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations.

The Licensed Practical Nurse who is certified in the Expanded Role of IV Therapy may perform the following functions in an inpatient hemodialysis settings under the direct supervision of the Registered Nurse:

1. Initiate and discontinue hemodialysis via fistula needles in the peripheral fistula or graft;
2. Inject intradermal lidocaine in preparation for dialysis and access;
3. Initiate and discontinue hemodialysis via catheter;
4. Administer heparin intravenously; and
5. Initiate, monitor, and regulate saline.

The Licensed Practical Nurse Certified in the Expanded Role of IV Therapy may not administer Heparin and must comply with the Board's Standard's for IV Therapy.

Although the determination of medical procedures and the patient's medical status is a medical decision, the Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse has the right and the obligation to question orders and decisions that are contrary to acceptable standards and to refuse to participate in procedures which may result in harm to the patient.

HISTORY

Original: 05/21/1987

Reviewed: 02/04/1998

Revised: 04/06/2000

