



Role of the Licensed Practical Nurse in Peritoneal Dialysis

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

The Licensed Practical Nurse may perform peritoneal dialysis provided the following stipulations are met:

1. The Licensed Practical Nurse must complete a training program in peritoneal dialysis which is taught by a qualified instructor (RN);
2. The training program must include the components recommended by the American Nephrology Nurse's Association;
3. Training and competency of the Licensed Practical Nurse must be documented; and
4. There must be a Registered Nurse readily available in the facility or on call at all times.

The qualified Licensed Practical Nurse may perform the following related to peritoneal dialysis:

1. Routine peritoneal dialysis (including continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) and cyler dialysis);
2. Cyler dialysis will include set-up of the tubing, hanging of dialysate solutions (including those with medications already added), and connection of the set-up at the catheter; medications must be added by a Registered Nurse;
3. Obtain laboratory specimens from the patient (via peripheral venipuncture) and/or from the peritoneal fluid (by assessing the solution) according to medical orders;
4. Perform tubing changes and replace catheter adapters according to established protocol; and
5. Assist the Registered Nurse in implementing a teaching plan; the Registered Nurse retains accountability for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the teaching plan.

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 which are contrary to acceptable standards and to refuse to participate in procedures which may result in harm to the patient.

HISTORY

Original: 01/16/1992

Reviewed: 04/22/1993; 02/04/1998

Revised: 04/06/2000

