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Frequently Asked Questions related to IV Therapy Functions for Licensed Practical Nurses

Nursing Education/Provider related questions:

- 1) Are Board Approved Nursing Education Programs and /or Providers required to submit their IV therapy curriculum for approval or just the added subject matter?

Answer: Nursing Education Programs and Board Approved Providers do not have to resubmit their entire IV therapy curriculum to the Board for review and approval. However they are required to submit a completed checklist and verification of compliance form indicating that they have incorporated into their Programs the recent amendments to the Intravenous Therapy Regulations (PA Code, Title 49 re: §21.141; §21.145 and §21.203 (relating to definitions, functions of the LPN and specific curriculum requirements for Practical Nursing programs) and §21.145a and §21.145b (relating to prohibited acts and IV therapy curriculum requirements) published in the **August 25, 2012** issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin located at: <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/search.html>). The IV checklist and verification of compliance form can be obtained by sending a request via email to st-nurse@pa.gov.

- 2) Can Providers offer a supplemental course that offers just the new information or do we need the entire IV Therapy Program presented again?

Answer: An LPN currently performing IV therapy would not necessarily be required to complete an entire course if they have education in the topics as listed in §21.203 of the regulations.

- 3) Where can I obtain a copy of these amended LPN IV Therapy regulations?

Answer: The amended LPN IV Therapy regulations can be found in the August 25, 2012 issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin located at:
<http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/search.html>

NOTICE: This “Frequently Asked Question” (FAQ) document is not to be viewed as legal advice.

- 4) Why must an LPN attend a Pennsylvania Board approved program?

Answer: Attending a Pennsylvania Board approved IV Therapy Program assures the LPN is receiving education that standardizes LPN practice regarding IV access devices and provides mandates for the educational program that must be provided for LPNs working with IV access devices to assure patient safety.

Practice related questions:

- 1) For which IV devices may an LPN provide care?

Answer: The definition of an *IV access device* can be found in §21.141. §21.145(f) states that an LPN may perform only the IV therapy functions for which the LPN possesses the knowledge, skill and ability to perform in a safe manner, except as limited under §21.145a (relating to prohibited acts), and only under the supervision as required in §21.145(f)(1). §21.145(g) states that the LPN who has met the education and training requirements of §21.145b (relating to IV therapy curriculum requirements) may perform the following IV therapy functions, except as limited under §21.145a and only under supervision as required in subsection §21.145(f).

- 2) What is the LPNs role in assessment?

Answer: As stated in §21.145(a) of the regulations, the LPN is prepared to function as a member of the healthcare team by exercising sound nursing judgment based on preparation, knowledge, experience in nursing and competency. The LPN participates in the planning, implementation and evaluation of nursing care using focused assessment in settings where nursing takes place. ***Focused assessment*** is defined in §21.141 of the regulations. ***Focused assessment*** is the appraisal of an individual's current status and situation, which contributes to comprehensive assessment by the licensed professional nurse and supports ongoing data collection. The practice of practical nursing is the performance of selected nursing acts in the care of the ill, injured or infirm is under the direction of a license professional nurse, a licensed physician or a licensed dentist which do not require the specialized skill, judgment and knowledge required in professional nursing.

- 3) Which sections of the new regulations address what an LPN **cannot** do?

Answer: Prohibited acts as presented in § 21.145a. (1-15) of the regulations address those IV therapy functions an LPN may not perform.

- 4) How will an LPN know that the course includes the most recently amended regulations related to IV therapy?

Answer: The regulations published on August 25, 2012, include content to be provided in all Board approved LPN IV therapy courses and all Board approved Practical Nursing programs. The content must be included in all Board Approved Practical Nursing Education Programs and Board approved LPN IV Therapy programs by **February 25, 2013.**

- 5) What is meant by *physical presence* or immediate availability?

Answer: As noted in section 21.145 f(5), the term *physical presence* is required when the LPN is providing IV therapy (i) when a patient's condition is critical, fluctuating, unstable or unpredictable; (ii) the patient has developed signs and symptoms of an IV catheter-related infection, venous thrombosis or central line catheter occlusion or (iii) a patient is receiving hemodialysis.
