



DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL EXPAND LPN SCOPE OF PRACTICE TO INCLUDE IV THERAPY

Date: February 1, 2017

To: The Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature
The Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislature
The Chairperson and Members of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee

From: Thomas L. Williams, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Director, Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services

Introduction

The Regulation of Health Professions Act (as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat., Section 71-6201, et. seq.) is commonly referred to as the Credentialing Review Program. The Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health administers the Act. As Director of this Division, I am presenting this report under the authority of this Act.

Description of the Issue under Review

The applicant group is seeking to expand LPN scope of practice to include IV therapy.

Summary of Technical Committee and Board of Health Recommendations

The technical review committee members recommended in favor of the applicants' proposal.

The Board of Health also recommended in favor of the applicants' proposal.

I concur with these two recommendations.

The Director's Recommendations on the Proposal

Action taken on the six criteria:

Criterion one: The health, safety, and welfare of the public are inadequately addressed by the present scope of practice or limitations on the scope of practice.

Action taken: I recommend in favor of the proposal on this criterion.

Comments:

The proposal would likely provide greater access to IV services if it were to pass.

Criterion two: Enactment of the proposed change in scope of practice would benefit the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

Action taken: I recommend in favor of the proposal on this criterion.

Comments: There would be clear benefits from passing the proposal including, but not limited to, improved access to IV therapy services.

Criterion three: The proposed change in scope of practice does not create a significant new danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

Action taken: I recommend in favor of the proposal on this criterion.

Comments:

There is no state mandated skills test for LPNs who want to do IVs. This indicates that the State trusts private hospital facilities to provide skills testing and overall oversight of the IV services of those LPNs who provide them. I see no reason to believe that passing this proposal would put the public in greater risk than it is under the current situation.

Criterion four: The current education and training for the health profession adequately prepares practitioners to perform the new skill or service.

Action taken: I recommend in favor of the proposal on this criterion.

Comments:

The entirety of the IV education and training to provide IV services would be taught to those who choose to provide these services under the terms of the proposal. This should provide protection for public health and safety.

Criterion five: There are appropriate post-professional programs and competence assessment measures available to assure that the practitioner is competent to perform the new skill of service in a safe manner.

Action taken: I recommend in favor of the proposal on this criterion.

Comments:

The requisite IV skills are already being assessed in Nebraska hospital settings. This would continue under the terms of the proposal, thereby ensuring protection of the public.

Criterion six: There are adequate measures to assess whether practitioners are competently performing the new skill or service and to take appropriate action if they are not performing competently.

Action taken: I recommend in favor of the proposal on this criterion.

Comments:

Hospitals already assess the competency and performance of all their employees. This would continue under the terms of the proposal, thereby ensuring protection of the public.

Action taken on the entire proposal: I recommend approval of the proposal.

Comments:

The proposal would simplify the credentialing situation of LPNs by eliminating the need for those who want to provide IV services from having to pay for two licenses. The proposal puts the burden of ensuring that LPNs are properly trained and educated on hospitals and other private facilities rather than on the tax payers.

The proposal would end the current confusion over what LPNs can do as opposed to what LPN-Cs can do.

The proposal would make it easier for LPNs in other states to come to Nebraska and continue to provide the IV services they already provide in the states where they currently work. This would result in expanded access to IV services in Nebraska.

The proposal would ensure that those who provide IV services have the training to do so safely and effectively.