Virginia Board of Nursing

Whether a Nurse May Administer a Medication That Has Been Transmitted Orally Or In Writing By a Pharmacist Acting as the Prescriber's Agent

There is nothing in the laws or regulations governing the practice of nursing which would prohibit the nurse from administering a medication that had been so recorded by the pharmacist, provided the medication was actually ordered by a practitioner authorized to prescribe and provided the pharmacist had been so designated by that practitioner to act as his agent in accordance with § 54.1-3408.01(C) and further transmit his oral, written or electronic order.

"Professional nursing", "registered nursing", and "registered professional nursing", as defined in § 54.1- 3000 of the Code of Virginia includes the administration of medications or treatments as prescribed by any person authorized by law to prescribe such medications and treatments. While the term "prescribe" is not defined, the term "prescription" is defined in § 54.1-3401 of the Drug Control Act, Code of Virginia as the communication of an order for drugs or medical supplies to a pharmacist by a practitioner authorized by law to prescribe. In addition, § 54.1-3408.01(C) of the Code of Virginia authorizes a prescriber to make a licensed pharmacist or nurse his agent for the purpose of transmitting an oral prescription, whether or not that pharmacist or nurse is an employee of the prescriber.

For guidance on transmittal of a prescriber's order through an authorized agent to a nurse and the right of the nurse to talk to the prescriber concerning the order, please refer to Guidance Document 90-2.

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