

February 26, 2024

The Oregon Medical Board provides guidance to licensees (physicians and PAs) through the Board's Statement of Philosophy on the [Use of Unlicensed Healthcare Personnel](#). As provided in the statement, a physician/PA may not allow an unlicensed healthcare personnel to practice medicine as defined in [ORS 677](#) and unlicensed healthcare personnel cannot perform invasive procedures. It is the licensee's responsibility to determine what is not an invasive procedure and what does not require medical judgement to perform. In general, we would not consider starting an peripheral IV an invasive procedure. However, the decision to start an IV and choice of fluid is the practice of medicine and may not be delegated to a medical assistant. The physician is responsible for ensuring the medical assistant is qualified and competent to perform any delegated services. It is within the physician/PA's judgment to determine that the medical assistant's education, training, and experience is sufficient to ensure competence in performing the service at the appropriate standard of care. The statement also provides examples of supervision to include the physician/PA verifying the correct medication and dosage prior to administration of medicine by a medical assistant and the physician/PA being physically present in the facility when services are performed by a medical assistant. Overall, performance of delegated services is held to the same standard of care applied to the physician/PA, and the physician/PA is accountable for the actions of their supervised personnel.

Best regards,



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