

STATE OF NEW YORK

1156

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 7, 2021

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and the public health law, in relation to authorizing certain nursing home medication aides to perform certain advanced tasks; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 6908 of the education law is amended by adding a
2 new subdivision 3 to read as follows:

3 3. This article shall not be construed as prohibiting the adminis-
4 tration of medication by a nursing home medication aide certified pursu-
5 ant to section twenty-eight hundred three-j of the public health law as
6 added by chapter seven hundred seventeen of the laws of nineteen hundred
7 eighty-nine in residential health care facilities, as defined in article
8 twenty-eight of the public health law, in the county of St. Lawrence, in
9 accordance with regulations developed by the commissioner, in consulta-
10 tion with the commissioner of health. At a minimum, such regulations
11 shall:

12 a. authorize the administration of medications which are routine and
13 prefilled or otherwise packaged in a manner that promotes relative ease
14 of administration, provided that administration of medications by
15 injection shall be prohibited. Provided, however, such prohibition shall
16 not apply to injections of insulin or other injections for diabetes
17 care, to injections of low molecular weight heparin, and to pre-filled
18 auto-injections of epinephrine for emergency purposes, and provided,
19 further, that entities employing nursing home medication aides pursuant
20 to this subdivision shall establish a systematic approach to address
21 drug diversion;

22 b. provide that medication administration by nursing home medication
23 aides may be performed only under the direct supervision of a registered

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 professional nurse licensed in New York state, as set forth in this
2 subdivision and subdivision eight of section sixty-nine hundred nine of
3 this article, where such nurse is employed by a residential health care
4 facility licensed or certified pursuant to the public health law. Such
5 nursing supervision shall:

6 (i) include training and periodic assessment of the performance of
7 medication administration;

8 (ii) be determined by the registered professional nurse responsible
9 for supervising such medication administration based upon the complexity
10 of such medication administration, the skill and experience of the nurs-
11 ing home medication aide, and the health status of the individual for
12 whom such medication administration is being performed;

13 (iii) include a comprehensive initial and thereafter regular and ongo-
14 ing assessment of the individual's needs;

15 (iv) include as a requirement that the supervising registered profes-
16 sional nurse shall visit individuals receiving medication for the
17 purpose of supervising the medication administration provided by nursing
18 home medication aides and include as a requirement that a registered
19 professional nurse shall be available to the nursing home medication
20 aide twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, provided that a regis-
21 tered professional nurse shall be available to visit an individual
22 receiving medication as necessary to protect the health and safety of
23 such individual; and

24 (v) as shall be specified by the commissioner, be provided in a manner
25 that takes into account individual care needs and case mix complexity
26 and provide that the number of individuals served by a supervising
27 registered professional nurse is reasonable and prudent;

28 c. establish a process by which a registered professional nurse may
29 assign medication administration to a nursing home medication aide. Such
30 process shall include, but not be limited to:

31 (i) allowing assignment of medication administration to a nursing home
32 medication aide only where such nursing home medication aide has demon-
33 strated to the satisfaction of the supervising registered professional
34 nurse competency in medication administration that such nursing home
35 medication aide is authorized to perform, a willingness to perform such
36 medication administration, and the ability to effectively and efficient-
37 ly communicate with the individual receiving medication and understand
38 such individual's needs;

39 (ii) prohibiting assignment of medication administration to a nursing
40 home medication aide if the individual receiving services declines to be
41 served by a nursing home medication aide;

42 (iii) authorizing the supervising registered professional nurse to
43 revoke any assigned medication administration from a nursing home medi-
44 cation aide for any reason; and

45 (iv) authorizing multiple registered professional nurses to jointly
46 agree to assign medication administration to a nursing home medication
47 aide, provided further that only one registered professional nurse shall
48 be required to determine if the nursing home medication aide has demon-
49 strated competency in the medication administration to be performed;

50 d. provide that medication administration may be performed only in
51 accordance with and pursuant to an authorized health practitioner's
52 ordered care;

53 e. provide that only a certified nursing home medication aide may
54 perform medication administration as a nursing home medication aide when
55 such aide has:

1 (i) at least one year of experience providing residential health care
2 services;

3 (ii) completed the requisite training and demonstrated competencies of
4 a nursing home medication aide as determined by the commissioner in
5 consultation with the commissioner of health;

6 (iii) successfully completed competency examinations satisfactory to
7 the commissioner in consultation with the commissioner of health; and

8 (iv) meets other appropriate qualifications as determined by the
9 commissioner in consultation with the commissioner of health;

10 f. provide that only an individual who has satisfied all applicable
11 training requirements and having passed the applicable competency exam-
12 inations and who meets other requirements as set forth in regulations
13 issued by the commissioner of health pursuant to the public health law
14 may perform medication administration pursuant to this subdivision and
15 may hold himself or herself out as a nursing home medication aide;

16 g. establish minimum standards of training for the performance of
17 medication administration by nursing home medication aides, including
18 didactic training, clinical training, and a supervised clinical practi-
19 cum with standards set forth by the commissioner of health;

20 h. provide that nursing home medication aides shall receive case-spe-
21 cific training on the medication administration to be assigned by the
22 supervising nurse, provided that additional training shall take place
23 whenever additional medication administration is assigned;

24 i. prohibit a nursing home medication aide from holding himself or
25 herself out, or accepting employment as, a person licensed to practice
26 nursing under the provisions of this article;

27 j. provide that a nursing home medication aide is not required nor
28 permitted to assess the medication or medical needs of an individual;

29 k. provide that a nursing home medication aide shall not be authorized
30 to perform any activities pursuant to this subdivision that are outside
31 the scope of practice of a licensed practical nurse or that have not
32 been appropriately assigned by the supervising registered professional
33 nurse;

34 l. provide that a nursing home medication aide shall document all
35 medication administration to each individual through the use of a medi-
36 cation administration record; and

37 m. provide that the supervising registered professional nurse shall
38 retain the discretion to decide whether to assign medication adminis-
39 tration to nursing home medication aides under this program and shall
40 not be subject to coercion, retaliation, or the threat of retaliation.

41 § 2. Section 6909 of the education law is amended by adding a new
42 subdivision 10 to read as follows:

43 10. A registered professional nurse, while working for a residential
44 health care facility licensed or certified pursuant to the public health
45 law, may, in accordance with this subdivision, assign nursing home medi-
46 cation aides to perform medication administration for individuals pursu-
47 ant to the provisions of subdivision three of section sixty-nine hundred
48 eight of this article and supervise nursing home medication aides who
49 perform assigned medication administration.

50 (a) Prior to assigning or modifying an assignment to perform medica-
51 tion administration, the registered professional nurse shall:

52 (i) complete a nursing assessment to ascertain the client's current
53 health status and care needs; and

54 (ii) provide to the nursing home medication aide written, individual-
55 specific instructions for performing the medication administration and

1 criteria for identifying, reporting and responding to problems or
2 complications.

3 (b) The registered professional nurse shall not assign medication
4 administration unless:

5 (i) the medication administration to be assigned is consistent with an
6 authorized health practitioner's ordered care;

7 (ii) the registered professional nurse provides case specific training
8 to the nursing home medication aide and personally verifies that the
9 nursing home medication aide can safely and competently perform the
10 medication administration;

11 (iii) the registered professional nurse determines that the nursing
12 home medication aide is willing to perform such medication adminis-
13 tration; and

14 (iv) the registered professional nurse determines that the nursing
15 home medication aide is able to effectively and efficiently communicate
16 with the individual receiving services and understand such individual's
17 needs.

18 (c) The supervising registered professional nurse shall:

19 (i) visit individuals receiving medication for the purpose of super-
20 vising the medication administration provided by nursing home medication
21 aides; and

22 (ii) conduct regular and ongoing assessment of the individual's needs.

23 § 3. Section 6906 of the education law is amended by adding a new
24 subdivision 10 to read as follows:

25 (10) In conjunction with and as a condition of each triennial regis-
26 tration, the department shall ask and a licensed practical nurse shall
27 indicate whether the licensed practical nurse is or has previously been
28 authorized as a nursing home medication aide pursuant to subdivision
29 three of section sixty-nine hundred eight of this article. The depart-
30 ment shall provide responses to the department of health and the depart-
31 ment of health shall include such information in reports related to
32 nursing home medication aides.

33 § 4. Section 206 of the public health law is amended by adding a new
34 subdivision 31 to read as follows:

35 31. The commissioner shall notify the commissioner of education in any
36 instance in which a registered professional nurse engages in improper
37 behavior while supervising a nursing home medication aide pursuant to
38 subdivision three of section sixty-nine hundred eight of the education
39 law.

40 § 5. Section 2801 of the public health law is amended by adding a new
41 subdivision 12 to read as follows:

42 12. "Nursing home medication aides" means nursing home aides who are
43 authorized to perform medication administration as delineated in subdi-
44 vision three of section sixty-nine hundred eight of the education law
45 and regulations issued by the commissioner of education relating there-
46 to. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations regarding such aides,
47 which shall include a process for the limitation or revocation of the
48 nursing home medication aide's authorization to perform medication
49 administration in appropriate cases.

50 § 6. Section 2803-j of the public health law, as added by chapter 717
51 of the laws of 1989, is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as
52 follows:

53 5. The department shall indicate within the nursing home nurse aide
54 registry when a nursing home nurse aide has satisfied all applicable
55 training and recertification requirements and has passed the applicable
56 competency examinations necessary to perform medication administration

1 pursuant to subdivision three of section sixty-nine hundred eight of the
2 education law and regulations issued thereto. Any limitation or revoca-
3 tion of the nursing home medication aide's authorization also shall be
4 indicated on the registry.

5 § 7. On or before October 1, 2027, the commissioner of health shall,
6 in consultation with the commissioner of education, issue a report on
7 the implementation of nursing home medication aides in the state. Such
8 report shall include the number of nursing home medication aides author-
9 ized pursuant to this act; the number of nursing home nurse aides that
10 became authorized to perform medication administration; the number of
11 nursing home medication aides that became registered as licensed practi-
12 cal nurses; the types of medication that nursing home medication aides
13 are administering; the number of complaints pertaining to medication
14 administration provided by nursing home medication aides that were
15 reported to the department of health; and the number of nursing home
16 medication aides who had their authorization limited or revoked. Such
17 report shall provide recommendations to the governor and the chairs of
18 the senate and assembly health and higher education committees regarding
19 the implementation of nursing home medication aides pursuant to this
20 act, and any recommendations related thereto.

21 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that:

22 a. sections one and three of this act shall take effect two years
23 after this act shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the
24 commissioner of education is authorized to adopt or amend regulations
25 and take such other actions as are necessary to implement the provisions
26 of sections one and two of this act on or before such effective date;
27 provided, further, that no medication administration shall be performed
28 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision three of section 6908 of the
29 education law, as added by section one of this act, on or before such
30 effective date; provided further, that no medication administration
31 shall be performed pursuant to such provisions until such regulations
32 are adopted and except in conformance with such regulations including in
33 conformance with the provisions of such regulations related to the
34 completion of nursing home medication aide training and the satisfaction
35 of competency examination requirements.

36 b. this act shall expire and be deemed repealed March 31, 2028.