

1 **Comments of the Alaska Medical Assistants Society and the American Association of**
2 **Medical Assistants to the Alaska State Medical Board regarding proposed new section 12**
3 **AAC 40.920**

4 May 9, 2019

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6 The Alaska Medical Assistants Society (Alaska MAS) and the American Association of Medical
7 Assistants (AAMA) commends the Alaska State Medical Board for proposing the addition of
8 new section 12 AAC 40.920 to its regulations. Both the Alaska MAS and the AAMA are in
9 general agreement with the proposed 12 AAC 40.920. This regulation will clarify a significant
10 ambiguity in Alaska law in regard to licensed provider delegation to unlicensed allied health
11 professionals such as medical assistants working under their authority and supervision. The
12 result of the adoption of this regulation will be increased access to quality health care for the
13 residents of Alaska.

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15 To increase access to health care to an even greater extent without sacrificing quality of care, the
16 Alaska MAS and the AAMA propose that the following underlined language be added to f (14):

17 (14) the administration of injectable medications, unless

18 (A)

19 (i) it is a single intramuscular, intradermal, or subcutaneous injection, not
20 otherwise prohibited under 12 AAC 40.967(33); or

21 (ii) it is a multidose intramuscular, intradermal, or subcutaneous injection, not otherwise
22 prohibited under 12 AAC 40.967(33) and the person is currently nationally certified as a
23 medical assistant by a national body accredited by the National Commission for
24 Certifying Agencies (NCCA); and

25 (B) all other provisions of this section are met; and

26 (C) the delegating physician, podiatrist, osteopath, or physician assistant is
27 immediately available on site.

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29 The rationale for adding the above underlined language is that medical assistants holding a
30 current medical assisting credential accredited by the NCCA have demonstrated the knowledge
31 and skill to be able to prepare and administer multidose intramuscular, intradermal, and
32 subcutaneous injections as specifically directed by the delegating physician, podiatrist,
33 osteopath, or physician assistant, who is immediately available on site.

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35 This proposed added language is similar to the following language from the regulations of the
36 Alaska Board of Nursing. Note especially the underlined language:

37 12 AAC 44.966. Delegation of the administration of injectable medication

38 (a) The administration of injectable medication is a specialized nursing task that may be
39 delegated under the standards set out in 12 AAC 44.950(a), (c), and (d) and this section.

40 (b) The administration of injectable medication may be delegated only by an advanced
41 practice registered nurse to a certified medical assistant. The certified medical assistant
42 may only perform the delegated duty in a private or public ambulatory care setting, and
43 the advanced practice registered nurse must be immediately available on site when the
44 certified medical assistant is administering injectable medication.

45 (c) Repealed 5/16/2018.

46 (d) To delegate to a certified medical assistant the administration of an injectable
47 medication to a patient the written instructions provided to the certified medical assistant
48 under 12 AAC 44.950(a) (7) must also include the information required in 12 AAC
49 44.965(d) (1) - (3).

50 (e) The delegating advanced practice registered nurse is responsible for ensuring that the
51 certified medical assistant maintains a national certification and for reviewing a current
52 criminal background check upon hire, to be reviewed at five-year intervals. If the
53 certified medical assistant has been convicted of a crime that, under AS 08.68.270 and 12
54 AAC 44.705, is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a
55 certified nurse aide, registered nurse, or practical nurse, the advanced practice registered
56 nurse may not delegate the administration of injectable medications to that certified
57 medical assistant.

58 (f) Repealed 3/19/2014.

59 (g) The delegating advanced practice registered nurse is responsible for ensuring that the
60 certified medical assistant monitors the patient's response to the injection for a minimum
61 of 15 minutes and reports and responds to any adverse reactions.

62 (h) In this section,

63 (1) "certified medical assistant" means a person who is currently nationally certified as a
64 medical assistant by a national body accredited by the National Commission for
65 Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and meets the requirements of this section;

66 (2) "immediately available on site" means that the advanced practice registered nurse is
67 present on site in the unit of care and not otherwise engaged in a procedure or task that
68 the advanced practice registered nurse may not immediately leave when needed;

69 (3) repealed 5/16/2018.

70 (i) An advanced practice registered nurse may not delegate to a certified medical assistant
71 or unlicensed assistive personnel the injection of a controlled substance under state or
72 federal law.

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74 Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to direct questions to the following:

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