



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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Division of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration in Nursing
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September 11, 2015

To: Massachusetts Nursing and Professional Healthcare Organizations

From: Laurie Talarico, MS, RN, CNP Nursing Practice Coordinator

Re: Revised Advisory Ruling 9804: *Administration of Immunizing Agents or Vaccines*

At the September 9, 2015 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board revised Advisory Ruling (AR) 9804: *Administration of Immunizing Agents or Vaccines* to ensure compliance with current statutes, regulations and scope of practice standards.

The AR guides the practice of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who, within their practice, administer immunizing agents or vaccines to any member of the public in any and all settings.

Advisory Ruling 9804: *Administration of Immunizing Agents or Vaccines* revisions:

1. Include the Board-approved, standardized statement requiring licensee compliance with all nursing licensure, practice laws, and regulations
2. Include Massachusetts Department of Public Health Immunization Program recommendations to:
 - a. require review and provision of Vaccine Information Statements (VISs), produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to the patient and/or responsible person, for specific vaccines as required by federal law
 - b. require screening for indications, contraindications and precautions
 - c. include documentation practices identifying:
 - i. The edition date of the VIS
 - ii. The date the VIS is provided
 - iii. The office address and name and title of the person who administers the vaccine
 - iv. The date the vaccine is administered
 - v. The vaccine manufacturer, lot number, and expiration date
 - d. provide for response to allergic reactions
 - e. provide for reporting of adverse events and medical errors
3. Include a section related to the nurse in a management role that states:

“The nurse in a management role must ensure the availability of sufficient resources to provide for administering immunization agents and vaccines consistent with current nursing standards. Resources must include, but not limited to, organizational evidence-based policies and procedures, consistent with local, state and federal requirements that provide for:

- Protocols for obtaining and documenting informed consent
 - Protocols for assessing, validating and documenting competency acquisition and maintenance for administering immunization agents and vaccines
 - Protocols for providing VIS consistent with [42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26](#)
 - Protocols for reporting MIIS data to the Registry, consistent with [MGL c. 111, § 24M](#)
 - Protocols for reporting errors and adverse events that comply with federal and state requirements
 - Nursing care responsibilities, including, but not limited to patient assessment, monitoring, education principles, response to potential complications and/or emergency situations, and documentation criteria”
4. Include resources to support standards of care

Please take a moment to review the entire [Advisory Ruling 9804](#).