

## Role of the Licensed Practical Nurse in Intravenous Therapy

The North Dakota Board of Nursing authorizes the provision of selected components of intravenous (IV) therapy by a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) who has completed a board approved associate degree nursing education program that included IV therapy in the curriculum or has successfully completed a course in IV therapy that was developed according to board guidelines and approved by the board. (Reference: NDCC 43-12.1-02(5); NDCC 43-12.1-08(1); NDAC 54-05-01-06.)

The North Dakota Board of Nursing believes that a LPN who has the appropriate knowledge and skill may perform selected interventions in the nursing management of IV therapy of a stabilized client under the clinical assignment and supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN), Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), or Licensed Practitioner in accordance with facility policy.

### I. The role of the LPN in the nursing management of intravenous therapy of a stabilized client is to:

1. Initiate or discontinue IV fluids using peripheral veins.
2. Initiate IV therapy only with a needle or over the needle intravenous device used for short-term intravenous therapy.
3. Monitor and regulate the infusion of prescribed IV solutions.
4. Observe, report, and document the client's responses to the IV therapy including the condition of the IV site.
5. Replace solution containers of prescribed IV fluids to existing peripheral lines and central venous lines having external access.
6. Add prescribed medications to IV fluids to administer through existing peripheral lines and central venous lines having external access.
7. Perform flushes of peripheral devices and central venous lines having external access with premixed solutions designed to maintain venous patency.
8. Perform sterile dressing changes to peripheral devices and central venous lines having external access.
9. Discontinue peripheral devices only.
10. Administer selected medications by IV bolus according to specific institutional policies and after specific institutional in-service. The institution /agency must determine by policy:
  - a. Drugs that may be given by the LPN by IV bolus.
  - b. Drugs that may be given in situations with direct, over the shoulder supervision by a RN, APRN, or Licensed Practitioner.
  - c. Drugs that are not to be given by the LPN by IV bolus.
11. According to specific institutional policies and after specific institutional in-service the LPN may:
  - a. Withdraw blood from a central venous line.
  - b. Administer blood or blood products.
12. LPNs who have successfully completed a Board-approved IV therapy course may withdraw venous blood from peripheral veins for laboratory analysis.

### II. The LPN may perform the following nursing functions in a dialysis unit according to specific institutional policy and after completion of specific institutional in-service:

1. Venipuncture for the purpose of hemodialysis.
2. Initiation and discontinuation from dialysis utilizing the various accesses - including subclavian, internal jugular, femoral vein, fistula, and right atrial catheters.
3. Withdraw blood and heparinized saline from the various accesses for the purpose of removing the heparin and establishing patency.
4. Withdraw blood from access for the purpose of obtaining blood for a lab specimen.
5. Administer IV medications and solutions during hemodialysis.
6. Flush tubing of access device.

7. Dressing changes to various access device sites.

III. LPNs who are IV certified and ACLS certified may give IV bolus medications in ACLS resuscitative situations under the direct supervision of a RN, APRN, or Licensed Practitioner according to agency policy.

IV. The LPN **MAY NOT** perform the following nursing functions in relation to IV medications and fluids.

1. Administer medications by IV bolus for moderate sedation.
2. Administer investigational or cytotoxic IV medications.
3. Discontinue a central venous line (this includes a peripherally inserted central catheter).

Guidelines for a certificate program in IV therapy for LPN are available at the following Board of Nursing link [LPN IV Therapy Course Guidelines - ND Board of Nursing \(ndbon.org\)](https://www.ndbon.org/IV-Therapy-Course-Guidelines). The program must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Nursing before the initial offering and every four (4) years thereafter.

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Reviewed/Revised 10/12, 7/2022