



## **IV Hydration Position Statement:**

### **Administration of Intravenous Fluids (IV Hydration), Nutrient Therapies, and Medications for Hydration, Health, and Wellness**

**Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Practice Nurses (LPN), and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) are accountable for the provision of safe competent nursing care in all practice settings, including non-traditional practice settings that market wellness promotional services such as “walk-in” or mobile hydration clinics, drip bars, etc. In these non-traditional practice settings, the RN and LPN being the only licensed health care professional interacting with, evaluating, and treating the patient is practicing beyond the RN and LPN's scope of practice and is unacceptable. It is not within the RN or LPN's scope of practice to make a medical diagnosis, identify medical problems, and develop medical treatment plans. It is within the scope of practice for the RN and LPN to administer intravenous fluids (IV hydration), nutrient therapies, and medications if authorized by a valid individualized order prescribed by a physician, nurse practitioner (NP), or physician assistant (PA) with prescriptive authority acting within his/her legal scope of practice.**

#### **RN Role:**

The RN may perform the prescribed/ordered IV hydration, nutrient therapies, and medication administration procedures if there is a valid order/prescription **and** a completed history and physical performed by the physician, NP, or PA. **Standing orders are not an appropriate substitute for the individualized order/prescription and history and physical.**

#### **LPN Role:**

The LPN participates in the nursing process as assigned and requires supervision by an RN, physician, NP, or PA. Under appropriate supervision, an LPN may provide nursing services, including the administration of prescribed/ordered IV hydration, nutrient therapies, and medications.

#### **Both RN and LPN Roles:**

- 1.** The nurse must have an individualized prescription/order for the treatment written by a physician, NP, or PA **AND** have a client history and physical for procedure appropriateness completed by a physician, NP, or PA.
- 2.** Nurses must have the documented knowledge, skill, and competency necessary to carry out the administration of prescribed/ordered IV hydration, nutrient therapies, and medications. (See Board of Nursing Decision Making Model for guidance: [38 Reference - Scope of Practice Decision Tree.pdf \(ga.gov\)](#))
- 3.** Agencies/businesses shall establish and maintain policies and procedures on-site for the administration of IV hydration, nutrient therapies, medications, and emergency interventions.
- 4.** Nurses shall practice within the scope of practice associated with their highest level of active licensure.

#### **Key Points:**

- 1.** If working in a setting in which clients may independently present for IV hydration, nutrient therapies, or medication administration, the nurse is responsible for ensuring there is an individualized prescription/order from an authorized prescriber **AND** a client history and physical for procedure appropriateness before the administration of any prescriptive or non-prescriptive medication or the implementation of a medical

intervention/treatment. Authorized prescribers include physicians, NPs, or PAs acting within their legal scope of practice.

**2. Standing orders are not an appropriate substitute for the individualized order/prescription and history and physical.**

3. The RN and LPN shall use the professional judgment required to implement treatments and pharmaceutical regimens prescribed by providers licensed and authorized by State law to prescribe such plans or regimens. The nurse who accepts responsibility for implementing the administration of IV hydration, nutrient therapies, and medications is accountable for:

- recognizing side effects, toxic effects, and allergic reactions,
- recognizing changes in a client's condition that contraindicates continued administration of the pharmaceutical or treatment regimen, and
- making judgments and decisions concerning actions to take in the event such effects/reactions occur.

4. The RN shall practice in compliance with all federal laws and regulations, and all Georgia (GA) laws and regulations including but not limited to, the GA Board of Nursing, the GA Board of Pharmacy, and the GA Composite Medical Board.

5. The RN planning to establish an independent professional nursing business, corporation, limited partnership (LP), or limited liability company (LLC), to provide nursing and related services, must ensure they are compliant with all laws and rules applicable to the practice setting, procedures, and client population. The RN may refer to the Georgia Secretary of State's website [How to Guide: Register a Domestic Entity | Georgia Secretary of State \(ga.gov\)](https://sos.ga.gov) for more information and is advised to seek legal advice if establishing a business. ▲

**References:**

**North Carolina BON Position Statement - [Administration of Intravenous fluids \(IV Hydration\), Nutrient Therapies, and Medications for Hydration, Health, and Wellness](#)**  
**[GA - GAC - Chapter 590-7. COMMISSIONER OF CORPORATIONS](#)**  
**[O.C.G.A. Title 14 - Corporations, Partnerships, and Associations](#)**  
**[Chapter 410-10 STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT](#)**

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