

C.G.S.A. § 20-87a

C

Connecticut General Statutes Annotated [Currentness](#)

Title 20. Professional and Occupational Licensing, Certification, Title Protection and Registration. Examining Boards [\(Refs & Annos\)](#)

[Chapter 378](#). Nursing [\(Refs & Annos\)](#)

→ § 20-87a. Definitions. Scope of practice

(a) The practice of nursing by a registered nurse is defined as the process of diagnosing human responses to actual or potential health problems, providing supportive and restorative care, health counseling and teaching, case finding and referral, collaborating in the implementation of the total health care regimen, and executing the medical regimen under the direction of a **licensed physician, dentist or advanced practice registered nurse**.

(b) Advanced nursing practice is defined as the performance of advanced level nursing practice activities that, by virtue of postbasic specialized education and experience, are appropriate to and may be performed by an advanced practice registered nurse. The **advanced practice registered nurse** performs acts of diagnosis and treatment of alterations in health status, as described in subsection (a) of this section, and shall collaborate with a physician **licensed** to practice medicine in this state. If practicing in (1) an institution **licensed** pursuant to subsection (a) of [section 19a-491](#) as a hospital, residential care home, health care facility for the handicapped, nursing home, rest home, mental health facility, substance abuse treatment facility, infirmary operated by an educational institution for the care of students enrolled in, and faculty and staff of, such institution, or facility operated and maintained by any state agency and providing services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment or care of human health conditions, or (2) an industrial health facility **licensed** pursuant to subsection (h) of [section 31-374](#) which serves at least two thousand employees, or (3) a clinic operated by a state agency, municipality, or private nonprofit corporation, or (4) a clinic operated by any educational institution prescribed by regulations adopted pursuant to [section 20-99a](#), the **advanced practice registered nurse** may, in collaboration with a physician **licensed** to practice medicine in this state, prescribe, dispense, and administer medical therapeutics and corrective measures. In all other settings, the **advanced practice registered nurse** may, in collaboration with a physician **licensed** to practice medicine in the state, prescribe and administer medical therapeutics and corrective measures and may request, sign for, receive and dispense drugs in the form of professional samples in accordance with [sections 20-14c](#) to [20-14e](#), inclusive, except that an **advanced practice registered nurse licensed** pursuant to [section 20-94a](#) and maintaining current certification from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists who is prescribing and administering medical therapeutics during surgery may only do so if the physician who is medically directing the prescriptive activity is physically present in the institution, clinic or other setting where the surgery is being performed. For purposes of this subsection, "collaboration" means a mutually agreed upon relationship between an advanced practice registered nurse and a physician who is educated, trained or has relevant experience that is related to the work of such advanced practice registered nurse. The collaboration shall address a reasonable and appropriate level of consultation and referral, coverage for the patient in the absence of the advanced practice registered nurse, a method to review patient outcomes and a method of disclosure of the relationship to the patient. Relative to the exercise of prescriptive authority, the collaboration between an advanced practice registered nurse and a physician shall be in writing and shall address the level of schedule II and III controlled substances that the advanced practice registered nurse may prescribe and provide a method to review patient outcomes, including, but not limited to, the review of medical therapeutics, corrective measures, laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures that the advanced practice registered nurse may prescribe, dispense and administer. An **advanced practice registered nurse licensed** under the provisions of this chapter may make the determination and pronouncement of death of a patient, provided the **advanced practice registered nurse** attests to such pronouncement on the certificate of death and signs the certificate of death no later than twenty-four hours after the pronouncement.

(c) The practice of nursing by a **licensed practical nurse** is defined as the performing of selected tasks and sharing of responsibility under the direction of a registered nurse or an **advanced practice registered nurse** and within the framework of supportive and restorative care, health counseling and teaching, case finding and referral,

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collaborating in the implementation of the total health care regimen and executing the medical regimen under the direction of a **licensed** physician or dentist.

(d) In the case of a registered or licensed practical nurse employed by a home health care agency, the practice of nursing includes, but is not limited to, executing the medical regimen under the direction of a physician licensed in a state that borders Connecticut.

CREDIT(S)

(1975, P.A. 75-166, § 1, eff. May 27, 1975; [1989, P.A. 89-107, § 1](#); [1989, P.A. 89-389, § 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1990](#); [1994, P.A. 94-213, § 4](#); [1997, P.A. 97-112, § 2](#); [1999, P.A. 99-168, § 1](#); [2003, P.A. 03-8, § 1](#); [2004, May Sp.Sess., P.A. 04-2, § 108, eff. May 12, 2004](#); [2004, P.A. 04-221, § 34, eff. June 8, 2004](#); [2004, P.A. 04-255, § 22](#).)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

2005 Electronic Update

Codification

Section heading was changed to conform to Gen.St., Rev. to 2005.

Effective Dates

2004 Act. 2004, May Sp.Sess., P.A. 04-2, § 108, provided: "Section 34 of public act 04-221 shall take effect from passage [June 8, 2004]."

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Codification

Gen.St., Rev. to 1991, changed the section heading from "Definition of nursing and practical nursing" to "Definition of nursing, advanced nursing and practical nursing".

Gen.St., Rev. to 1991, redesignated subsec. (c) as added by 1989, P.A. 89- 107, § 1, relating to execution of the medical regimen under the direction of a physician licensed in a state which borders Connecticut, as subsec. (d).

Gen.St., Rev. to 1999, in subsec, (b), substituted "home for the aged" to "residential care home" pursuant to 1997, P.A. 97-112, § 2.

Prior Laws:

1939, Supp. § 992e.
1949 Rev., § 4423.
1958 Rev., § 20-87.
1969, P.A. 146.

CROSS REFERENCES

Administration of medication by trained persons, see [C.G.S.A. § 20-14i](#).

Determination of death by registered nurse, regulations, see [C.G.S.A. § 20- 101a](#).

Health insurance, managed care, provider defined, see [C.G.S.A. § 38a-478](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE REFERENCES

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Administration of medications,

Department of Corrections, see [Regs. Conn. State Agencies, § 18-81-10a](#).

Licensure of home health care agencies, Health Services Department, see [Regs. Conn. State Agencies, § 19-13-D74](#).

Board of Governors for Higher Education, Nursing Scholarship Program, see [Regs. Conn. State Agencies, § 10a-162a-1](#).

Day programs and residential facilities, administration of medication by trained persons, see Regs. Conn. State Agencies, § 17a-6(g)-13 et seq.

Department of Health Services, administration of medications by school personnel, see [Regs. Conn. State Agencies, § 10-212a-1](#) et seq.

State Board of Education, school nurses and nurse practitioners, see [Regs. Conn. State Agencies, § 10-212-2](#).

LIBRARY REFERENCES

1999 Main Volume

Physicians and Surgeons  5(4).

[C.J.S. Physicians, Surgeons, and Other Health-Care Providers § § 26, 27](#).

Words and Phrases (Perm.Ed.)

RESEARCH REFERENCES

2005 Electronic Update

Treatises and Practice Aids

[10 Connecticut Practice Series App. § 21A-240](#), Definitions.

NOTES OF DECISIONS

In general 1

1. In general

APRNs, licensed nurse-midwives and physician assistants who are licensed in Connecticut may dispense mifepristone in a licensed clinic so long as they are acting under the supervision of a physician who is a "qualified physician" under the FDA standards. The Public Health Code does not preclude APRNs, nurse-midwives nor physician assistants from administering mifepristone, as the Public Health Code relates to surgical abortions and nonsurgical abortions. Op.Atty.Gen. No. 01-003 ([Feb. 7, 2001](#)), [2001 WL 223439](#).

In the absence of regulations adopted under § 20-99a to expand the settings in which advanced practice registered nurses may prescribe medication, the nurses prescriptive authority is strictly limited to the settings and conditions specified in § 20-87a(1) to (4). Op.Atty.Gen. No. 94-004 ([Feb. 16, 1994](#)), [1994 WL 275082](#).

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Current through 2005 Jan. Reg. Sess. legislation approved by the Gov. on or before 6-24-05.

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