



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS®

20 N. WACKER DR., STE. 1575
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606

June 2017

Thank you for your inquiry concerning what duties are delegable legally to medical assistants according to Wisconsin law.

Section 448.03(2)(e) of the Wisconsin statutes indicates that the law shall not impinge upon the right to practice of:

Any person other than a physician assistant providing patient services as directed, supervised, and inspected by a physician who has the power to direct, decide, and oversee the implementation of the patient services rendered.

It is my legal opinion that this language authorizes physicians to delegate a reasonable scope of administrative and clinical tasks (including verbatim transmission of the physicians' medication/prescription, laboratory, and diagnostic imaging orders; venipuncture/phlebotomy; and intramuscular, intradermal, and subcutaneous injections—including vaccinations/immunizations) to knowledgeable and competent unlicensed allied health professionals such as medical assistants working under their direct/onsite supervision in outpatient settings.

Although the state nurse practice act and the attendant regulations and policies of the state board of nursing govern what nursing duties can be delegated by nurses to unlicensed personnel, the state medical practice act and the attendant regulations and policies of the state board of medical examiners govern what tasks can be delegated by physicians to unlicensed professionals such as medical assistants.

Tasks which constitute the practice of medicine, or which state law permits only certain health care professionals to perform, or which require the exercise of independent professional judgment or the making of clinical assessments, evaluations, or interpretations, however, may not be delegated to medical assistants.

I have attached the Core Curriculum in the accreditation standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, and the Content Outline of the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination, as well as relevant articles and documents.

I hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or need additional assistance.

Donald A. Balasa, JD, MBA
CEO and Legal Counsel
dbalasa@aama-ntl.org



CMA (AAMA)® | SETS THE BAR FOR EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL ASSISTING
TELEPHONE • 800/228-2262 | FAX • 312/899-1259 | WEBSITE • WWW.AAMA-NTL.ORG