STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

IN RE: PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING CONCERNING WHETHER IT IS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR SCHOOL NURSES TO ADJUST INSULIN DOSES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH PARENTAL INPUT.

PETITIONER: CHRISTIAN D. ANDRESEN, SECTION CHIEF, PRACTITIONER, LICENSING AND INVESTIGATIONS, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat.§ 19a-14(f)(2), I hereby adopt the attached Declaratory Ruling of the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing, rendered on October 16, 2019, as the Final Decision in this matter.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 24th day of October, 2019.

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

IN RE: PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING CONCERNING WHETHER IT IS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR SCHOOL NURSES TO ADJUST INSULIN DOSES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH PARENTAL INPUT AS LONG AS: 1) A PHYSICIAN'S ORDER AUTHORIZES THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT WITH DIABETES TO ADJUST THE TIMING AND/OR DOSAGE OF DIABETES MEDICATION WITHIN SPECIFIED LIMITS; 2) THE PHYSICIAN'S ORDER AUTHORIZES THE SCHOOL NURSE TO MAKE DOSAGE ADJUSTMENTS WITHIN THE SAME RANGE(S) AUTHORIZED FOR THE PARENT/GUARDIAN TO PROPOSE; AND, 3) THE NURSE RETAINS HIS/HER PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT REGARDING THE ADJUSTMENT DOSE THAT HE/SHE WILL ADMINISTER

PETITIONER: CHRISTIAN D. ANDRESEN, SECTION CHIEF, PRACTITIONER, LICENSING AND INVESTIGATIONS, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Procedural Background

By letter dated June 25, 2019 ("Petition"), Christian D. Andresen, Section Chief of Practitioner Licensing and Investigations at the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health ("Petitioner") requested that the State of Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing ("Board") issue a Declaratory Ruling with regard to the following question:

> Whether it is within the scope of practice for school nurses to adjust insulin doses for school children with parental input as long as: 1) a physician's order authorizes the parent/guardian of a student with diabetes to adjust the timing and/or dosage of diabetes medication within specified limits; 2) the physician's order authorizes the school nurse to make dosage adjustments within the same range(s) authorized for the parent/guardian to propose; and, 3) the nurse retains his/her professional judgment regarding the adjustment dose that he/she will administer.

The Board's review of the Petition was placed on the Board's agenda, and in accordance with § 4-176(c) of the Statutes, notice of the petition was made on July 11, 2019, on the State Agency Public Meeting Calendar and on the Board's website.

On July 17, 2019, the Board considered and discussed the Petition and the following ruling was decided by the Board:

Ruling

The Board has determined that it is within the scope of practice for registered nurses in schools[1] to adjust insulin doses for school children with parental input as long as: 1) a provider's[2] order authorizes the parent/guardian of a student with diabetes to adjust the timing and/or dosage of diabetes medication within specified limits; 2) the provider's order authorizes the registered nurse in the school to make dosage adjustments within the same range(s) authorized for the parent/guardian to propose; and, 3) the registered nurse in the school retains his/her professional judgment regarding the adjustment dose that he/she will administer in accordance with § 20-87a(a) of the Statutes.

10/16/19
Date

Patricia C Bouffard D.N.Sc.
Patricia Bouffard, D.N.Sc., Chairperson

[1] The Board determined that the term "nurse" in the original petition is too broad, and that nurses, such as licensed practical nurses, would be working outside the scope of their license to practice in accordance with § 20-87a(c) of the Statutes.

In accordance with § 20-87a(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 practical nurse. A registered nurse may also execute orders issued by licensed physician assistants, podiatrists and optometrists, provided such orders do not exceed the nurse's or the ordering practitioner's scope of practice. A registered nurse may execute dietary orders written in a patient's chart by a certified dietitian-nutritionist.

[2] The Board determined that health care providers, other than physicians, may also provide orders authorizing diabetic medication adjustments.