

**SPECIAL NOTICE: RNs and LPNs ACCEPTING ORDERS FROM
OTHER PRACTITIONERS**

The State Board of Nursing (Board) is frequently asked whether RNs and LPNs may accept orders from practitioners other than physicians and dentists. Section 21.14(a) of the Board's regulations, 49 Pa. Code §21.14, relating to the administration of drugs by registered nurses provides:

- (a) A licensed registered nurse may administer a drug ordered for a patient in the dosage and manner prescribed.

Similarly, Section 21.145(b)(1) and (2)(i) of the Board's regulations, 49 Pa. Code §21.145(b)(1) and (2)(i), relating to the functions of the LPN provides:

- (b) The LPN administers medication and carried out the therapeutic treatment ordered for the patient in accordance with the following:

- (1) The LPN may accept a written order for medication and therapeutic treatment from a practitioner authorized by law and by facility policy to issue orders for medical and therapeutic measures.
- (2) The LPN may accept an oral order if the following conditions are met:
 - (i) The practitioner issuing the oral order is authorized by law and by facility policy to issue oral orders for medical and therapeutic measures.

The Board recognizes that practitioners other than physicians, such as nurse practitioners, physician assistants and institutional pharmacists, are authorized by law and/or regulations to issue orders for drugs and therefore the RN and LPN may accept and execute such orders. In the case of LPNs, additional requirements are set forth in Section 21.145(b)(2) and are discussed more fully in the Special Notice regarding LPNs Accepting Oral Orders at <http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Nursing/Documents/Special%20Notices/LPN%20Oral%20Orders.pdf>