

SPECIAL NOTICE: LPNs ACCEPTING ORAL ORDERS

The Practical Nurse Rules and Regulations § 21.145 (Functions of the LPN) permit the licensed practical nurse to **accept oral orders as long as the following conditions are met:**

1. The practitioner issuing the oral order is authorized by law and by facility policy to issue oral orders for medical and therapeutic measures.
2. The LPN has received instruction and training in accepting an oral order in an approved nursing education program *or* has received instruction and training in accepting an oral order in accordance with the established policies and protocols of the facility.
3. The policy of the facility permits an LPN to accept to an oral order.
4. The regulations governing the facility permit an LPN to accept an oral order.

The LPN shall question any order which is perceived as unsafe or contraindicated for the patient or which is not clear and shall raise the issue with the ordering practitioner. If the ordering practitioner is not available, the LPN shall raise the issue with a registered nurse or other responsible person in a manner consistent with the protocols or policies of the facility.

The LPN **may not accept** an oral order which is not within the scope of functions permitted in § 21.145 or which the LPN does not understand.

An oral order accepted by the LPN shall be immediately transcribed by the LPN in the proper place on the medical record of the patient. The transcription shall include the prescriber's name, the date, the time of acceptance of the oral order and the full signature of the LPN accepting the oral order. The countersignature of the ordering practitioner shall be obtained in accordance with applicable regulations of the Department of Health governing the licensed facility.

This regulatory change has been effective since December 20, 2003 and amended the regulations at 49 Pa. Code § 21.145 (Functions of the LPN).