



# ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978

## ALPHA RESOLUTION 3-2008

### Restoration of Nurse Practitioner Delegation Authority

Sponsor: Alaska Primary Care Association  
Shelley Hughes

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**WHEREAS** the Alaska Public Health Association (ALPHA) strives toward the goal of a healthy population, and recognizes the necessity of improving access to primary care for all Alaskans as one of the key ingredients in improving the public health of all Alaskans; and

**WHEREAS** ALPHA supports the preservation of independent prescriptive authority of advanced nurse practitioners.

**WHEREAS** a state regulation was passed in 2004 that restricts Nurse Practitioners (NPs) from delegating duties, specifically the "administration of injectable medications," to unlicensed personnel, including delegating to medical assistants (MAs); and

**WHEREAS** this inhibitive regulation is increasing the cost of health care and reducing access to health care services throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS** this regulation is unjustly impacting the most vulnerable and medically underserved Alaskans as Community Health Centers and other safety net providers have limited staffing options; and

**WHEREAS** preventing NPs and MAs from working to their full potential is exacerbating the current primary care workforce shortage in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** physicians and physician assistants are trusted with the privilege, the right and the responsibility, to delegate immunization duties to medical assistants; and

**WHEREAS** the current need to bring a physician into the NP-patient loop to delegate the duty to an MA interrupts the safe workflow and increases the risk of error; and

**WHEREAS** clinics take seriously the responsibility of ensuring that the MAs are carefully and very closely monitored upon hiring/orientation for quality assurance purposes;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the ALPHA supports the adjustment of the Board of Nursing regulations to allow Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) to give injectable medication orders to

those individuals who meet the following criteria and who are employed in an out patient clinic:

- Graduation from an accredited training program;
- National Certification as a Medical Assistant; and
- Compliance with ongoing competency evaluations and assurances conducted by the health care employer

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Public Health Association will promote and advocate for restoration of Advanced Nurse Practitioner privileges in regard to the delegation of the administration of injectable medications as detailed above and engage in low and no-cost advocacy efforts for this purpose such as:

- Circulation of advocacy action requests to membership
- Circulation of advocacy action requests to partners and other individuals
- Posting of ALPHA resolutions on the Alaska Public Health Association's website
- Participation in email advocacy campaigns
- Contact with Alaska Board of Nursing via phone, letter, email and/or in-person meetings
- Public testimony in Alaska Board of Nursing meetings
- Contribution of op-ed articles and/or letters to the editor
- Contributions to radio programs via calling-in or scheduled interviews
- Distribution of this resolution statement to Alaska Board of Nursing.

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### **Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact on ALPHA by the proposed resolution will be minimal. This action will result in minor costs associated with sending this resolution and accompanying cover letter to the Alaska Board of Nursing.

### **Public Health Impact**

This public health impact by the proposed resolution will be significant. This action will benefit public health by helping to increase the number of Alaskans

1. Who will have ready access to health care services
2. Who will receive health care services

This action will also benefit public health by improving overall health outcomes for Alaska's residents.