



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

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It is my legal opinion that Nebraska law permits physicians to delegate to competent and knowledgeable medical assistants working under their direct supervision in outpatient settings the taking of vital signs, venipuncture/phlebotomy, and certain other clinical tasks. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has taken the position that medical assistants must meet the qualifications and register as medication aides in order to be delegated any administration of medication. Please note the following:

96-004 COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT FOR PLACEMENT ON THE REGISTRY: The requirements for demonstration of competence and the required documentation are set forth below:

96-004.01 Medication aides providing services in all settings except an assisted-living facility, ICF/MR, or nursing home must successfully pass a competency assessment as identified in 172 NAC 96-005.

I and leaders of the Nebraska Society of Medical Assistants met with officials of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) last month in Lincoln. Some Nebraska SMA leaders and medical assisting educators had a subsequent meeting with the Nebraska DHHS. We are trying to see how the effects of the DHHS implementation of the law can be lessened for those medical assistants who are CMAs (AAMA) and who have graduated from an accredited medical assisting program.

I hope this is helpful. Please be assured that we will continue to work hard to protect the medical assistants' (especially the CMAs' (AAMA)) right to practice in Nebraska.

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