

Title: **Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) Scope/ Functions**

The information included in this paper is provided as general information only. This information should not be considered complete or dispositive guidance for legal or regulatory compliance. The specific application of laws and regulations to an organization requires a careful consideration of all the relevant facts and circumstances and may require assistance of competent legal counsel.

Question:

What are CNAs allowed to do? What are they prohibited from doing?

Answer:

This functional statement has been developed by the DPH as appropriate CNA functions to be performed under the supervision of a licensed nurse in a licensed health facility. The Board of Registered Nursing agrees that these functions do not infringe upon the practice of nursing.

Communicate with the resident; observe resident responses to treatment and/or environment and report changes to licensed nurse.

CNAs may Provide the following personal care and comfort measures:

- Bathing: bed, tub, and shower
- Hair care, shampoos, medicinal shampoos
- Shaving
- Dressing and undressing
- Oral hygiene and denture care
- Toileting
- Nail care (except that which requires a podiatrist)
- Care of hearing aids, glasses, prosthetic devices, personal equipment and belongings
- Incontinence care
- Routine skin care
- Prevention of pressure ulcers
- Perineal care
- Assistance with mobility: range of motion, transfers, ambulation, positioning, exercises as ordered and demonstrated by an RN or physical therapist
- Maintenance of a clean and healthful environment

CNAs may Perform the following procedures:

- Feed patients
- Take vital signs: temperature, pulse, respirations, and blood pressure
- Measure height and weight
- Measure and record in-take and out-put

- Assist with use of bedpan, urinal, and commode
- Collect specimens; urine, stool, and sputum
- Assist with bowel and bladder retraining
- Provide perineal care
- Provide or assist with bath
- Provide care to patients with urinary, gastric, oxygen, and intravenous tubing (excluding inserting, suctioning, changing or repositioning the tubes)
- Make beds
- Insert cleansing enemas, laxative suppositories
- Heimlich maneuver
- CPR (with current certification)
- Apply non-sterile dry dressings to intact skin surfaces
- Apply non-legend topical ointments, creams, lotions, and solutions to intact skin surfaces
- Chart the medical record

A CNA MAY NOT PERFORM ANY NURSING FUNCTIONS THAT MUST BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.

Examples of functions that CNAs may NOT perform are:

- Perform invasive procedures
- Pass/administer medications or give injections (This includes the administration of any medication associated with treatment of eyes, ears, nose, mouth, or genitourinary tract.)
- Perform ostomy care or apply wafer to skin
- Insert, irrigate, or replace catheters
- Suctioning
- Perform sterile procedures (dressing changes, debridement, tracheostomy care)
- Administer gastrostomy or naso gastric feedings
- Administer oxygen

