

Protocol for the Registered Nurse (RN) to Delegate Insulin

Before an RN may delegate insulin administration by the subcutaneous (SQ) route to a nursing assistant, the following requirements must be met, pursuant to ARSD 20:48:04.01.

The delegating RN must meet the following qualifications:

- Hold an active RN license or privilege to practice in South Dakota;
- Have 2 years of clinical nursing experience; and
- Have written evidence of demonstrated competence in the area of diabetes management in the past 5 years, or completion of the SD Board of Nursing's online *RN - Diabetes Aide Train-the-Trainer Course*; or hold current specialty certification as a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES).

The nursing assistant must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Complete the SD Board of Nursing's 5-hour online *Diabetes Aide Course* that covers the following topics:
 - (a) Diabetes basics;
 - (b) Hypoglycemia;
 - (c) Hyperglycemia;
 - (d) Blood glucose monitoring;
 - (e) Glucagon administration;
 - (f) Insulin types and methods of administration;
 - (g) Nutrition and physical activity;
 - (h) Documentation; and
 - (i) Standard precautions.
- (2) Pass a written examination on the areas listed above. The RN may contact the SD Board of Nursing to obtain and use tests; and customize if needed.
 - (a) A passing score of 85 percent is required on the test.
 - (b) If the nursing assistant fails the test, the nursing assistant may retake the test one time.
 - (c) If the nursing assistant fails the retake, additional instruction is required before further testing is allowed.
- (3) Complete a minimum of 5-hours of clinical or laboratory instruction, including the demonstration of individual competence utilizing the SD Board of Nursing's competency checklists (available on the Board's website). The following tasks must be validated if the task will be performed by the diabetes aide:
 - (a) Blood glucose monitoring;
 - (b) Insulin administration;
 - (c) Glucagon administration;
 - (d) Carbohydrate counting and diet management; and
 - (e) Standard precautions.
- (4) After completion of the training, exam, clinical/lab and competency validation, the RN shall meet in-person with the nursing assistant during a client's/student's mealtime at least two times per week in the first four weeks to consult with the nursing assistant and to evaluate competence;
- (5) The RN must be available by electronic communication at all mealtimes; and
- (6) The RN shall complete an annual review of the nursing assistant's competence as described in subdivision (3).

Reference: ARSD 20:48:04.01:16. Written protocol required for the delegation of insulin administration by the subcutaneous route to a nursing assistant. <https://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/Administrative/20:48:04.01:16>, November 27, 2022.