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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING – MARCH 16, 2015

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO: Raised Bill No. 981 AAC Medical Assistants

Lynn Rapsilber, MSN, ANP-BC, APRN, FAANP representing the CT ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE SOCIETY (CTAPRNS)

My name is Lynn Rapsilber. I am a Nurse Practitioner. I am opposing SB No. 981 AA Concerning Medical Assistants

I am speaking on behalf of THE CT APRN SOCIETY

Expanding the scope of practice of medical assistants is a concern to nurses. The concern surrounds delegation of duties by nurses. Medical assistants are considered unlicensed personnel to which a nurse can delegate nursing functions. There was a Declaratory Ruling - Delegation by Licensed Nurses to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel rendered on April 5, 1995 by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing.

The Board finds that Chapter 378, Section 20-101, of the General Statutes of Connecticut allows delegation of

nursing functions to unlicensed personnel by the registered nurse, Authority to perform selected nursing tasks in selected situations is transferred to competent (is defined by the Board as follows: unlicensed assistive personnel are presumed to have baseline competency if they are certified as a Certified Nursing Assistant or Home Health Aide ...or hold another Board approved State certification, and if documentation of task specific competency,

specific to the task being delegated, exists). If the nurse delegates a task to an unlicensed personnel who does not hold such certification and competency validation, the nurse bears responsibility to verify that the person to whom the task is being delegated is competent to perform such task. However, the registered nurse retains responsibility for the total nursing process and for its outcomes in all situations where delegation has occurred. The nurse, when making decisions about delegation, shall consider:

- . client safety and the potential for client harm;
- . the stability and acuity of the client's condition;
- . the nature and complexity of the task (as referenced in Subsection F of this section);
- . the type of technology employed in providing nursing care with consideration given to the
 - knowledge and skill required to effectively use the technology;
- . relevant infection control and safety issues;
- . the requisite competency of the person to whom the task is being delegated, as referenced in the
 - definition of "competent," as specified on page 7;
- . the ability of the nurse to provide supervision and evaluation of the specific task being delegated
 - (as referenced in Subsection D1 and 2 of this section);
- . the adequacy of resources available to the nurse to support, direct, supervise and evaluate the
 - delegated activity;
- . the proximity and availability of the nurse responsible for delegation or assistance (as referenced in
 - Subsection D1 and 2 of this section).

It is at the discretion of the nurse to delegate to unlicensed personnel a nursing function. It is the nurse who determines if adequate resources and support are available to them to support, direct, supervise and evaluate the delegation activity. The nurse must make the determination if task can be properly and safely performed by the unlicensed personnel and is in the best interest of the client's safety and welfare. The unlicensed personnel cannot be delegated tasks requiring nursing assessment and judgment, care planning and evaluation. These are part of the nursing process which is a licensed activity. Any part of this process done by unlicensed personnel is practicing nursing without a license.

http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/phho/nursing_board/guidelines/unlicensed_ap_dec_rul.pdf

Therefore, the CT APRN Society opposes this pilot as it allows a Medical Assistant, with minimal training, to give medications.