



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

Drug Control Program

239 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD,
MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

Medication Administration Program (MAP)

Notice of Rescission

MAP Hospice Policies 16-2 and 16-3

In accordance with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing's revised Advisory Ruling 9324, both MAP Policy 16-2 *Hospice: Exceptions to Other MAP Policies* and MAP Policy 16-3 *Hospice: Procedure for Telephone Clarification of PRN Orders with Dose Ranges* have been rescinded/repealed.

Re: Revised Advisory Ruling 9324: *Accepting, Verifying, Transcribing and Implementing Medication Orders*

At the April 11, 2018 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board revised Advisory Ruling 9324: *Accepting, Verifying, Transcribing and Implementing Medication Orders* to ensure compliance with current statutes, regulations and scope of practice standards. AR 9324 guides the practice of Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses when accepting, verifying, transcribing, and implementing patient care orders from a duly authorized prescriber (i.e., Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with prescriptive authority, Physician Assistants, and Physicians).

Based on its review of relevant statutes and regulations, position statements published by professional nursing and health care organizations, scientific, peer-reviewed literature, the Board voted unanimously to revise AR 9324 by:

- a) Requiring range orders specify specific, objective measures that must be collected and assessed prior to administering the correct dosing. Range orders that do not contain these elements involve diagnosing and prescribing; activities that are outside the scope of RN and LPN nursing practice. Examples of specific, objective measures include biophysical markers such as blood pressure, pulse, lab values and oxygen saturation values; and
- b) Stating the practice of prescribing doses of opioid analgesics based solely on a patient's verbalized pain intensity would be subjective and should not be relied upon without co-existing objective elements of comprehensive pain assessment; and
- c) Updating references

To review the entire advisory ruling: [AR 9324 Accepting, Verifying, Transcribing, and Implementing Prescriber Orders](#)