



## Use of Medication Assistants / Technicians

### **Safe administration of medications is much more than a technical process.**

The medication administration procedure involves the “five rights” which are: the right patient, right medication, right dose, right method and the right time. Also, a sixth right has been proposed – the right response of the patient to the medication. Nurses are educated to exercise the sixth right; that of evaluating for the “right” response. (Wilson & DiVito-Thomas 2004)

The first national survey of medication aides revealed such concerns as insufficient training, inadequate supervision, and employer expectations that exceed regulations and training. (National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) *Journal of Nursing Regulation* (October 2011): Vol 2/Issue 3).

### **The administration of medications involves complex thinking and application of scientific knowledge.**

The actual act of administering medication is a small part of the professional nurse’s responsibility in the medication administration process. Professional vigilance is required when administering medication and includes:

Observation for signals and cues as to whether the medication is working as intended.

Calculation of risk associated with the medication and a readiness to act appropriately and efficiently. (Eisenhauer et al., Nurses Thinking During Medication Administration 2007) *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*)

### **Any nursing intervention that requires independent, specialized, nursing knowledge, skill or judgment can not be delegated.**

*(Registered Nurse Utilization of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel Position Statement, ANA 1992)*

### **Nurses are the last link in the safety net to prevent errors.**

For further information, you may contact ANA:

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