

OPINION: FAQ –LPN and Peritoneal  
Dialysis  
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## **Frequently Asked Questions: Regarding LPN and Peritoneal Dialysis**

**Questions:** Can an LPN perform peritoneal dialysis (PD)? Can an LPN mix medication in the PD bag:

**Answer:** It is within the scope of practice for an LPN with additional training and competency validation to perform chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis. This includes: initiating or discontinuing therapy using pre-mixed medicated peritoneal dialysis bags, collecting specimens, and performing tubing or adaptor changes. The patient must be in a stable condition and the LPN must be under the supervision of an RN or Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP) who is responsible for periodic patient assessment.

It is NOT within the scope of practice for an LPN to mix any medication(s) and/or add any medication(s) to the bag (i.e. antibiotics or electrolyte solutions). Nor is it within the scope of practice for an LPN to remove a peritoneal dialysis (PD) catheter.

### **Rationale:**

The principle of sterile and aseptic technique, gravity drainage, osmotic fluid and electrolyte balances are within the scope and education of a practical nurse. The LPN who has received additional education including supervised clinical practice which is specific to the equipment being used may perform chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis.

While an LPN can safely perform continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, it is not within their scope or training to mix medications. The complexities of reconstitution related to the drugs and the solutions, drug stability and compatibility, and advanced infection prevention, are outside of the usual and standard education for an LPN.

Complications can arise during the removal of a PD catheter, that may require a surgical repair or removal of the remainder of the catheter. Therefore, only an LIP can remove PD catheters.

### **References:**

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Mississippi Board of Nursing. (2000, April). *Position statement: Role of the Licensed Practical Nurse in peritoneal dialysis*. Retrieved from [http://www.msbn.ms.gov/Documents/LPNPeriDialysis\\_2000.pdf](http://www.msbn.ms.gov/Documents/LPNPeriDialysis_2000.pdf)

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