



POLICY NO:	505
DATE ISSUED:	05/2009
DATE TO BE REVIEWED:	05/2012
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MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

MRC Scope of Practice: Registered Nurse

Purpose: To define the scope of practice for volunteer Registered Nurses providing treatment as a MRC volunteer in Santa Barbara County or deployment.

Authority: Nursing Practice Act, (NPA), Business and Professions Code Section 2725.

Procedure or Policy: The scope of RN practice in Santa Barbara County shall be in accordance with applicable sections of the Nursing Practice Act as outlined in accordance with the California State Board of Registered Nursing.

Employment standard to include possession of a valid Registered Nurse license issued by the California State Board of Register Nursing.

The NPA authorizes the following: Observation of signs and symptoms of illness, reactions to treatment, general behavior, or general physical condition, and determining of whether the signs, symptoms, reaction, behaviors, or general appearance exhibit abnormal characteristics; and implementation, based on observed abnormalities of appropriate reporting, or referral, or standardized procedure, or changes in treatment regime in accordance with standardized procedures, or the initiation of emergency procedures (Source: BRN: Business and Professions Code 2725, Explanation of RN Scope of Practice, NPR-B-19 12/98)

EXAMPLE OF DUTIES

- A. An RN may direct and indirect patient care services that ensure the safety, comfort, personal hygiene and protection of patient; and the performance of disease prevention and restorative measures.
- B. May direct and indirect patient care services, including, not limited to, the administration of medications including oral medication, and authorized intravenous medication and hydration as outlined by Santa Barbara County policy. This shall also include any therapeutic agents necessary to implement a treatment, disease prevention, or rehabilitation regimen ordered by and within the scope of licensure of physician, dentist, podiatrist, and clinical psychologist.
- C. The performance of skin tests, immunization techniques, and the withdrawal of human blood from veins.
- D. Perform professional nursing assessments of health status including medical triage determining the need for and the level of nursing and/or medical care including implementation of care plans.

APPROVED:

Nancy Lapolla

Noemi C. Doohan

TITLE: SCOPE OF PRACTICE, REGISTERED NURSE

Communicate effectively verbally and in writing, work with groups, and maintain confidentiality of information.

- E. Render basic life support, rescue and first aid procedures to patients with noted medical, trauma, environmental, psychiatric, or obstetrical emergencies. Stabilization of patients who are hospitalized, for transport to the nearest medical facility for further care, performance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and basic life support techniques.
- F. Perform field triage in a medical setting, and assign patients according to the severity of their injuries. Coordinates patient care with other health professionals. Maintain accurate records and document actions taken.

FUNCTION OF THE MRC FOR REGISTERED NURSES

A. The MRC is a **medical group**, and our purpose is medical. As a volunteer agency, we train, drill, and organize independently of any other agency. When needed for emergency response, we first must be requested, and then, we function under the Public Health Department. The existing emergency medical system in Santa Barbara County is made up of public and private agencies functioning under established procedures.