

“What is my role?”

Steve is a certified medical assistant who works in a large physician practice. He has many years of experience and is an excellent employee. He has an extensive knowledge of routine medical procedures both from his schooling and years of working in medical practices.

When he worked in another state, his work included administering flu shots and other immunizations, as well as placing tuberculin tests (PPDs). His co-workers asked that he help out when there is short-staffing to provide these same services, but he is concerned that some states do not allow medical assistants to administer medications. He wants to be helpful to his employer but doesn't want to disobey the law. He wonders if it is OK to perform medication administration as long as the physician has delegated this and will supervise.



What should Steve do?

Steve is correct that some states allow medication administration by certified medical assistants and some states do not. In Connecticut, medical assistants are not allowed to administer medications in the hospital or physician practice setting, even if under the direct supervision of a physician.

It is important to recognize that different states have different rules regarding unlicensed assistive personnel. This is a helpful topic for Steve to bring to the attention of his supervisor.