



## Standing Orders for Nursing in Oregon's Local Health Department

Standing orders are defined as orders developed for the use of certain patient populations that present with particular needs or symptoms in the absence of a physician examination and assessment (Advance for Nurses). Standing orders are frequently used in public health departments because a provider is not always on site. With the use of standing orders clients can still be assessed and treated by an RN or LPN according to the order.

In Oregon, the nurse may accept and implement orders for client care and treatment from licensed health care professionals who are authorized by Oregon statute to independently diagnose and treat; a physician or nurse practitioner. A Physician Assistant is included when the name of the supervising or agent physician is recorded with the order or by a method specified by the health department. The standing order must be signed and dated by the provider.

The authority for nurses to act under standing orders is found in the Oregon Nurse Practice Act OAR 851-045-0040(6). Nurses must assure that the order is within their scope of practice.

### Examples of when to use Standing Orders:

Administration of immunizations (e.g., influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, among others), treatment of common health problems, health screening activities, public health clinical services, telephone triage and advice services, nurse-on-call services, ordering of lab tests or treatments for certain categories of patients.

### Components of Standing Orders should include:

1. Purpose of standing order
2. Who the standing order applies to
3. Assessment criteria
4. Subjective findings
5. Objective findings
6. Plan of Care including:
  - a. Medical treatment/pharmaceutical regimen if subjective and objective findings lead to treatment
  - b. Nursing actions
  - c. Follow-up requirements
6. Contraindications and criteria in which the provider is to be called
7. Date written or last reviewed
8. Signature of current provider

### References

North Carolina Board of Nursing, Standing Orders, Position Statement for RN and LPN Nursing Practice. May 2009  
Oregon State Board of Nursing, Nurse Practice Act, Division 45  
Advance for Nurses, website: <http://events.advanceweb.com/Attendee/Default.aspx>