



anf position
statement

australian nursing federation

the administration of medicines

Where the term 'nurse' is used it includes all licensed classifications including, but not limited to: registered nurse, midwife, enrolled nurse, nurse practitioner.

The framework for the administration of medicines is clearly outlined in the ANF publication: *Nursing Guidelines for the Management of Medicines in an Aged Care Setting (2002)*.

While this document refers specifically to aged care settings, the principles outlined in the document apply to the administration of medicines in all settings where health care is provided.

It is the position of the Australian Nursing Federation that:

1. The administration of medicines is a function of registered nurses and midwives and authorised or endorsed enrolled nurses.¹ To promote safe care and safe practice a suitably qualified nurse or midwife must administer medicines to:
 - people/children who are unable to self administer;
 - people/children who are unable to take responsibility for decisions about when to take medicines and when not to take medicines.
2. Branches should actively seek at a State and Territory level, supported by the Federal Office at a national level, amendments to poisons and other legislation that reflects the ANF position on the administration of medicines.
3. The ANF opposed and continues to oppose the inclusion of Unit CHCCS303A *Provide physical assistance with medication* in the Community Services Training Package. The ANF also opposes the inclusion of Unit CHCCS303A in Certificate III in Community Services (Aged Care Work) education programs.
4. The ANF recognises that the units of competence set out in the 2007/8 Community Services Training Package have been developed on the basis of delegation by a health professional to workers other than nurses or midwives. The safe implementation of medication administration requires the registered nurse to assess the competence of the worker in each situation and in relation to individual clients.

endorsed may 2003

reviewed and re-endorsed february 2005

reviewed and re-endorsed november 2008

reference

1. Registered nurse (Division 2) in Victoria authorised to administer medicines