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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **NNA STATEMENT ON MEDICAL ASSISTANTS IN NEVADA**

The NEVADA NURSES ASSOCIATION (NNA) has been asked to comment on the recent restrictions and questions presented regarding Medical Assistants in Nevada. Last week, the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners released new regulation which increased the amount of supervision required and specified certain limitations on the functions allowed by Medical Assistants in Nevada.

Most notably, Medical Assistants are restricted from administering Botox, Chemotherapy, Anesthetics and other potentially harmful medications to patients. These medications may only be administered by nurses, physicians and other licensed healthcare professionals in Nevada.

The greatest concern for the Nevada Nurses Association is patient safety when it comes to the healthcare delivery system in Nevada. The Nevada State Board of Nursing regulates all Professional Nurses, Advanced Practice Nurses, Practical Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants in Nevada. Nursing regulation includes criminal background checks, fingerprinting, verification of education and other requirements for licensure. The Nevada Nurse Practice Act and Practice Decisions clearly define the scope of practice for each discipline in Nursing.

In the interest of patient safety, NNA would like to clarify that Medical Assistants are not Nurses and they do not fall under Nursing Regulation. Medical Assistants are not licensed by any regulatory board in Nevada and there are no mandatory prerequisites to work as a Medical Assistant in Nevada. Background checks and education verification for Medical Assistants are merely subject to employer discretion.

*NNA Press Release Continued...*

In general, Medical Assistants work under the direction and supervision of Physicians and Physician's Assistants. While some Medical Assistants have taken courses or certified programs to learn certain skills, many are trained on the job to perform certain functions for the physician in clinics and other healthcare facilities throughout Nevada.

NNA believes it is most important for patient-consumers to be aware exactly who is caring for them in any healthcare setting. While it is common practice for some facilities to refer to their supportive staff as "nurses," Medical Assistants are not Nurses. Referring to non-nursing personnel as "Nurses" is an illegal and dangerous practice which leads to confusion and unrealistic expectations by patients.

Medical Assistants have been an integral part of the healthcare system in Nevada for many years. The Nevada Nurses Association recognizes the supportive role of Medical Assistants in Nevada and supports regulation that ensures public safety.