

	MEDICAL DIRECTIVE POLICY
	Date Effective: December 2019
	Revised:
	Next Review Due: December 2022

Background

A medical directive is a written order from an authorized prescriber for an intervention or series of interventions to be implemented by another healthcare provider for clients exhibiting a specific health condition under specific circumstances. The medical directive is only initiated when the health condition occurs.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the requirement in the Registered Nurses Regulations (2018) that any reserved activity by an RN is authorized by virtue of an order by an NP, MD, or Dentist.

1.0 Policy

- 1.1 A medical directive is signed by an authorized prescriber at the time of its writing and that signature and the medical directive content is understood to be an order as per the RN Regulations (2018).
- 1.2 The directive must include:
 - 1.2.1 name and description of the intervention(s),
 - 1.2.2 specific client conditions and circumstances that must occur to implement the directive,
 - 1.2.3 monitoring parameters,
 - 1.2.4 clear contraindications for implementing the directive,
 - 1.2.5 name, signature, and designation of the authorized prescriber, and
 - 1.2.6 date and signature of the administrative authority approving the directive.
- 1.3 The authorized prescriber is ultimately responsible for the medical directive and any changes required to the medical directive are made when best practice dictates such a change.
- 1.4 Nurses must ensure they are working within their scope of practice when implementing interventions in a medical directive.

- 1.5 Nurses must be knowledgeable and aware of agency policy about specific medical directives in their practice setting.