



# FAQ: Delegation of Veterinary Medical Services

## Delegation of Veterinary Medical Services

### **Q** Can a veterinarian delegate services to a veterinary student, a CVT, or an unlicensed assistant that they choose to?

No. An act that is the practice of veterinary medicine, therefore a medical service, may not be delegated unless it is listed in [VE 1.44, Wisconsin Administrative Code](#) as a veterinary medical service that may be delegated. The delegating veterinarian must supervise performance of all delegated medical services defined in [VE 1.44](#).

### **Q** What services may be delegated to a veterinary assistant, a CVT, or an unlicensed technician?

The requirements for delegation of veterinary medical acts to veterinary students, certified veterinary technicians, and unlicensed assistants are under s. [VE 1.44](#).

VE 1.44 must be reviewed in its entirety, as it discusses veterinary supervision requirements and the veterinarians' responsibilities for ensuring the competence of the person services are delegated to. We urge you to review the entire section to ensure your practices are compliant.

Veterinary medical services are allowed to be delegated to active status veterinary students at a college of veterinary medicine approved by the board, certified veterinary technicians, and unlicensed technicians with varying levels of supervision by the delegating veterinarian.

#### Delegation to an active status veterinary student at a college of veterinary medicine approved by the board:

With the exception of the law governing the delegation of rabies vaccine administration, s. [95.21 \(2\)](#), Wis. Stats., a veterinarian may delegate to a veterinary student the provision of veterinary medical services under the supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided, refer to [VE 1.44\(3\)](#).

#### Delegation of medical services to a CVT:

With the exception of the law governing the delegation of rabies vaccine administration, s. [95.21 \(2\)](#), Wis. Stats., veterinarians may delegate to certified veterinary technicians the provision of the following



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veterinary medical services when the veterinarian is available at all times for consultation, either in person or within 15 minutes of contact by telephone, video conference, or electronic communication device:

- Nonsurgical veterinary treatment of animal diseases and conditions, including administration of vaccines.
- Observations and findings related to animal diseases and conditions to be utilized by a veterinarian in establishing a diagnosis or prognosis, including routine radiographs, nonsurgical specimen collection, drawing of blood for diagnostic purposes, and laboratory testing procedures.
- Administration of sedatives and presurgical medications.
- Nutritional evaluation and counseling.
- Except to certified veterinary technicians who are also licensed professionals governed by the provisions in s. [VE 1.48](#), the provision of any complementary, alternative, or integrative therapy, as defined in s. [VE 1.48 \(1\)](#).

Veterinarians may delegate to certified veterinary technicians the provision of the following veterinary medical services under the supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is available to communicate via telehealth technologies within five minutes, or the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided:

- Performing diagnostic radiographic awake contrast studies not requiring general anesthesia.
- Sample collection via cystocentesis procedure.
- Placement of intravenous catheters.
- Suturing of tubes and catheters.
- Fine needle aspirate of a mass.

Veterinarians may delegate to certified veterinary technicians the provision of the following veterinary medical services under the supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided:

- Administration of local or general anesthesia, including induction and monitoring.
- Performing diagnostic radiographic contrast studies, including those requiring general anesthesia.
- Dental prophylaxis and simple extractions that require minor manipulation and minimal elevation.
- Placement of arterial catheters.
- Performing amniocentesis, embryo collection and transfer, follicular aspiration, and transvaginal oocyte collection and recovery on livestock.

#### Delegation of medical services to an unlicensed assistant:

Veterinarians may delegate to unlicensed assistants the provision of the following veterinary medical services under the supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is available at all times for consultation, either in person or within 15 minutes of contact by telephone, video conference, or electronic communication device:

- Basic diagnostic studies, including routine radiographs, nonsurgical specimen collection, and laboratory testing procedures.
- Monitoring and reporting to the veterinarian changes in the condition of a hospitalized patient.
- Dispensing prescription drugs pursuant to the written order of the veterinarian.



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With the exception of the law governing the delegation of rabies vaccine administration, s. 95.21, Wis. Stats., veterinarians may delegate to unlicensed assistants the provision of the following veterinary medical services under the supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided:

- Nonsurgical veterinary treatment of animal diseases and conditions, including administration of vaccines, and administration of sedatives and presurgical medications.
- Observations and findings related to animal diseases and conditions to be utilized by a veterinarian in establishing a diagnosis or prognosis, including the drawing of blood for diagnostic purposes.
- Dental prophylaxis.
- Nutritional evaluation and counseling.
- Placement of intravenous catheters.

### **Q What if a medical services is not included in the list of medical services that may be delegated?**

If the medical service is not listed as a medical service that may be delegated to CVT or an unlicensed assistant, it may not be delegated.

### **Q What medical services can a veterinary student, CVT, or unlicensed assistants do in an emergency?**

Under the supervision of the veterinarian, and pursuant to mutually acceptable written protocols, veterinary students, CVTs, or unlicensed assistants employed by a veterinarian may perform evaluative and treatment procedures necessary to provide an appropriate response to life-threatening emergency situations for the purpose of stabilizing the patient pending further treatment.

### **Q What are the delegating veterinarian's responsibilities regarding delegation of veterinary medical services?**

- Delegate only those tasks commensurate with the education, training, experience, and demonstrated abilities of the person supervised.
- Provide the supervision required for the service being performed.
- Observe and monitor the activities of those supervised on a daily basis
- Evaluate the effectiveness of delegated acts performed under supervision on a daily basis.
- Establish and maintain a daily log of each delegated patient service which has been provided off the premises of the supervising veterinarian.
- Notify the client that some services may be provided by a veterinary student, certified veterinary technician, or an unlicensed assistant.



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