

2025 -- H 6088 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED

LC002394/SUB A/3

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

Introduced By: Representatives Boylan, Cotter, Fogarty, Hopkins, Stewart, Potter,  
McGaw, Carson, Speakman, and Spears  
Date Introduced: March 14, 2025  
Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1
- SECTION 1. Chapter 5-34 of the General Laws entitled "Nurses" is hereby amended by
- 2
- adding thereto the following section:
- 3
- 5-34-51. Foot care.**
- 4
- (a) The purpose of this section is to recognize and promote the rights of home care patients
- 5
- and clients to receive safe, appropriate, and high quality foot care and services in a timely manner
- 6
- with consideration, dignity, respect, and privacy, consistent with the provisions of § 23-17.16-5.
- 7
- (b) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings unless
- 8
- the context clearly indicates otherwise:
- 9
- (1) "Client education" includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- 10
- (i) Self-care, hygiene, and health habits;
- 11
- (ii) Appropriate footwear;
- 12
- (iii) Nutrition;
- 13
- (iv) Exercise;
- 14
- (v) Compliance with medical regime; and
- 15
- (vi) Reporting changes and problems to the patient's podiatrist if one is provided or
- 16
- identified by the client.
- 17
- (2) "Home services" means in an individual's private residential space or dwelling. It
- 18
- includes houses, apartments, condominiums, or other buildings where people live independently or
- 19
- with limited personal assistance, such as an assisted living facility. It does not include facilities

1 such as long-term care nursing homes, hospitals or other facilities or in-patient units where twenty-  
2 four (24)-hour clinical care is available, nor does it include commercial or public spaces or the  
3 common/community areas of multi-unit dwellings such as apartment buildings, condominiums, or  
4 senior centers.

5 (c) Nurses who provide home services foot care must have theoretical knowledge of and  
6 demonstrate clinical competency in:

7 (1) Foot and lower extremity anatomy and physiology;

8 (2) Structure and function of the foot and nail;

9 (3) Common foot pathology and related nursing interventions;

10 (4) Changes in the foot due to age and chronic diseases;

11 (5) Nursing assessment of the foot and lower extremity;

12 (6) Use of instruments used in nursing foot care; and

13 (7) Infection control.

14 (d) Home services foot care is considered a nursing intervention that includes, but is not  
15 limited to, the following components:

16 (1) Assessing past medical history including diabetes mellitus, peripheral vascular disease  
17 or peripheral neuropathy;

18 (2) Assessing health habits affecting feet and lower extremities (activity level, exercise,  
19 obesity, diet, smoking, etc.);

20 (3) Assessing circulation;

21 (4) Assessing skin integrity, foot and nail structure;

22 (5) Assessing pain and methods of relief;

23 (6) Implementing a plan of foot care that is consistent with recognized standards of practice  
24 that includes:

25 (i) Hygiene and shortening of toe and finger nails;

26 (ii) The use of emery boards or pedicure drill with emery disc attachment, to smooth corns  
27 or calluses;

28 (iii) Referring the patient to an appropriate practitioner for further assessment and orders  
29 when alterations in skin integrity, foot structure and/or other abnormalities require application of  
30 prescribed or over-the-counter treatments/devices;

31 (iv) Evaluating client response to a plan of care; and

32 (v) Appropriate client education.

33 (e) A nurse providing in-home foot care shall ensure that two (2) hours of continuing  
34 education out of the ten (10) hours required per certification period must be focused on foot care.

1           (f) A nurse whose home care services are limited to providing home services foot care  
2           pursuant to and as described in this section shall be exempt from the requirements of §§ 23-15-2  
3           and 23-17-42.

4           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

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1           This act would permit a nurse who has the appropriate knowledge and who can demonstrate  
2   clinical competency, to be able to provide home services foot care, which would include routine  
3   foot and nail care, as well as implementing a plan of footcare that includes hygiene and the  
4   shortening of toe and finger nails. A nurse providing in-home foot care would ensure that two (2)  
5   hours of continuing education out of the ten (10) hours required per certification period would be  
6   focused on foot care.

7           This act would take effect upon passage.

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