

### Guidelines for the prescription of medicines by nursing staff and interns in social service

Mexico City, November 10, 2025

On October 21, 2025, the Guidelines for prescribing medications that must be followed by licensed nurses and interns in social service in the fields referred to in article 28 Bis of the General Health Law (the "Guidelines") were published in the Federal Official Gazette<sup>1</sup>.

The Guidelines apply to licensed nurses and interns in social service in medicine, homeopathic medicine, dental surgery, veterinary medicine (in their area of competence), and nursing. These individuals may prescribe medications when providing services in primary care medical facilities of the National Health System, mobile units, home care, brigades, and social and community programs. To prescribe medications, they must: (i) have a professional license or, in the case of interns, provisional authorization to practice; (ii) prescribe only medications included in the National Compendium of Health Supplies, and (iii) use the prescription form of the institution where they provide services.

Interns in medicine, homeopathic medicine, dental surgery, and veterinary medicine may prescribe medications referred to in sections III to VI of article 226 of the General Health Law. Only medical interns may prescribe medications referred to in sections I and II of article 226 of the General Health Law. Medical interns may prescribe narcotics and psychotropic drugs only when: (i) no physician or dental surgeon is available in the establishment to issue the prescription, and (ii) the prescription continues a treatment previously indicated and recorded by a physician in the patient's medical record.

Licensed nurses may prescribe medications listed in the Guidelines under the prescription modalities established therein, which are:

- Initial or autonomous prescription: allows autonomous indication, use, and authorization of medications according to respective areas of training, based on the ability to perform complete clinical assessment, diagnose health problems, and plan interventions without medical authorization.

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<sup>1</sup> The Guidelines update those published in the Federal Official Gazette on March 8, 2017.

- Collaborative prescription: allows prescription and authorization of medication in collaboration with a medical professional, with or without their physical presence, under conditions that generally involve a prior diagnosis and/or medical prescription.
- Expanded role nursing: nursing practice at the primary health care level, performed by personnel with a minimum bachelor's degree, at least three years of health services experience, who have completed and been certified in specific clinical and community training in a primary health care area.
- Advanced practice nursing: specialized professional practice within nursing, based on a minimum master's degree in advanced practice, consolidated clinical and community experience, and advanced skills. It is characterized by advanced knowledge and skills for complex decision-making and patient care.

Nursing interns may prescribe medications only under initial or autonomous prescription and collaborative prescription modalities in National Health System medical care facilities where they perform social service. This applies when: (i) no physician, homeopathic physician, dental surgeon, or licensed nurse is available to perform the corresponding assessment, diagnosis, and prescription, or (ii) to continue treatment previously prescribed by a physician, homeopathic physician, dental surgeon, licensed nurse, or intern in one of these fields.

The Guidelines expand the list of prescribable medications, including vaccines in accordance with the Universal Vaccination Program.

The Guidelines establish detailed prescription requirements and permit the use of certified electronic signatures.

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