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**Q1 Issue Statement:** [State the problem your recommendation will address. Insert links to reports where appropriate.]

Infrastructure: Workforce

Expand Nurse Delegation of Health Maintenance Tasks

Unpaid family caregivers are often faced with providing challenging care to loved ones, including tube feedings, ventilator care, intramuscular injections, and stony care, despite feeling uncomfortable and unprepared to do so. Unpaid family caregivers unwilling or unable to perform these tasks themselves must hire a registered nurse (RN) to minister to their loved one. This is because California law prohibits privately paid home health workers from performing certain health maintenance tasks that nurses have not delegated. These 16 tasks include: administer oral medications; administer medication on an as-needed basis; administer medication via pre-filled insulin or insulin pen; draw up insulin for dosage measurement; administer intramuscular injection medications; administer glucometer test; administer medication through tubes; insert suppository; administer eye/ear drops; gastrostomy tube feedings; administer enema; perform intermittent catheterization; perform stony care including skin care and changing appliance; perform nebulizer treatment; administer oxygen therapy; perform ventilator respiratory care. California only allows two of the 16 tasks: administering glucometer test and administering enemas.

As was reported in the 2014 LTSS Scorecard by the SCAN Foundation, California ranks 40th in the nation in permitting privately paid home care workers to perform certain nursing tasks under the direction of a licensed health care professional. Fifty percent of all states allow paid home care workers to perform ten or more of the 16 tasks. There are specified exceptions to California's nurse delegation law, including for In-Home Supportive Services.

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**Q2 MPA Framework Goal #:** [Check which goal/s this recommendation addresses. View MPA Framework document]

**Goal 1: Services & Supports. We will live where we choose as we age and have the help we and our families need to do so.**

**Goal 3: Health & Well-being. We will live in communities and have access to services and care that optimize health and quality of life.**

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## Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Recommendation Form

**Q3** MPA Framework Objective #: [Check which objective/s this recommendation addresses. View MPA Framework document]

**Objective 1.1:** Californians will have access to the help we need to live in the homes and communities we choose as we age.

**Objective 1.2:** Californians of all ages will be prepared for the challenges and rewards of caring for an aging loved-one, with access to the resources and support we need.

**Objective 3.2:** Californians will have access to quality, affordable, and person-centered health care through delivery systems that are age-friendly, dementia-friendly and disability-friendly.

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**Q4** Recommendation: [Explain your recommendation in one to two sentences.]

The state should revise the statute to permit direct care workers to perform specified health maintenance tasks under the direction of a licensed health care professional.

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**Q5** Target Population and Numbers: [Describe groups of Californians impacted by this recommendation, with numbers if available.] Respondent skipped this question

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**Q6** Detailed Recommendation: [Insert detailed bullet points describing your recommendation.]

The revised statute to permit direct care workers to perform specified health maintenance tasks under the direction of a licensed health care professional would:

- Require nurses to delegate certain tasks to direct care workers who demonstrate such competency, particularly in home and community-based settings;
- Require oversight and training of the direct care workers who perform these tasks; and
- Promote development of training and certification programs that enable direct care workers to develop the skills needed for an expanded scope of practice and pay scales that recognize their increased capabilities.

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**Q7** Evidence that supports the recommendation: [Add links or summaries of research evidence that support the recommendation. Provide links or summaries of research evidence that support your recommendation]

Other states that allow nurse delegation of health maintenance tasks.

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**Q8** Examples of local, state or national initiatives that can be used as an example of a best practice: [Provide any available links and sources.] Local: State: National: Other: Respondent skipped this question

## Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Recommendation Form

**Q9 Implementation:** [Insert actions state agencies, legislators, counties, local government, or philanthropy can take to move this recommendation forward. Some of the entities listed below may or may not be applicable to each recommendation.] State Agencies/Departments: [action to be taken by Governor or specific state agencies] State Legislature: [legislation needed to implement recommendation] Local Government: Federal Government: Private Sector: Community-Based Organizations: Philanthropy: Other:

State Legislature

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**Q10 Person-Centered Metrics:** [Individual measures of inputs or outcomes that can be used to measure the recommended action's impact on people.]

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q11 Measuring Success:** [Describe specific metrics that could be used to empirically measure the effectiveness of your recommendation]

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q12 Measuring Success:** [How would we know that the implementation of your recommendation is successful?]

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q13 Data Sources:** [What existing data can be used to measure success or progress?]: Existing data sources: [specify datasets, variables, and data owner/location] Suggestions for data collection to evaluate implementation of this goal when no data sources exist:

The SCAN Foundation would have this information.

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**Q14 Potential Costs/Savings:** [insert any research, actuarial analysis or other evidence of the cost of this recommendation or potential savings]

There definitely would be cost savings.

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**Q15 Prioritization:** [How would you prioritize your recommendation relative to other needs/priorities?]

High

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**Q16 Contact information:**

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