Assignment and Supervision of Nursing Tasks to Medical Assistants by a Registered Nurse

The South Dakota Board of Nursing has received inquiries regarding RN supervision of medical assistants. The Board issued the following:

Practice Statement
It is within the scope of a registered nurse (RN), pursuant to SDCL 36-9-3 (7) (11), to assign and supervise nursing tasks to medical assistants in ambulatory or outpatient settings.

Purpose
The following guidelines are intended to promote safe assignments of nursing tasks to medical assistants.

Guidelines
A registered nurse may assign nursing tasks and supervise a medical assistant provided:

- The agency allows a medical assistant to provide nursing services in the practice setting;
- The medical assistant is certified with the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) or American Medical Technologists (AMT);
- Assigned nursing tasks are consistent with Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) standards, with the exclusion of IV therapy;
- The medical assistant has demonstrated competency to perform the assigned nursing tasks;
- The supervising registered nurse is readily available either in person or via electronic communication.

National Medical Assistant Verification Sites
https://www.aama-ntl.org/employers
https://americanmedtech.org/Verify

Reference

Applicable South Dakota Nursing Law
36-9-3. Practice of registered nurse