

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
POLICY**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

**TITLE: DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE AS DCH NURSE AGENTS UNDER NURSE PROTOCOL**

**INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE:**

Persons outside of the Department of Community Health (DCH) may be eligible to serve as DCH Nurse Agents that practice under nurse protocol pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-34-23. The purpose of this policy is to provide the criteria and process for determining eligibility of such persons to serve as DCH Nurse Agents under nurse protocol.

**AUTHORITY:**

Nurse protocol statute: O.C.G.A. § 43-34-23.

Georgia Board of Nursing Rules: Chapter 410-11-.03.

Possession of dangerous drugs: Title 16, Chapter 13 and Title 26, Chapter 4.

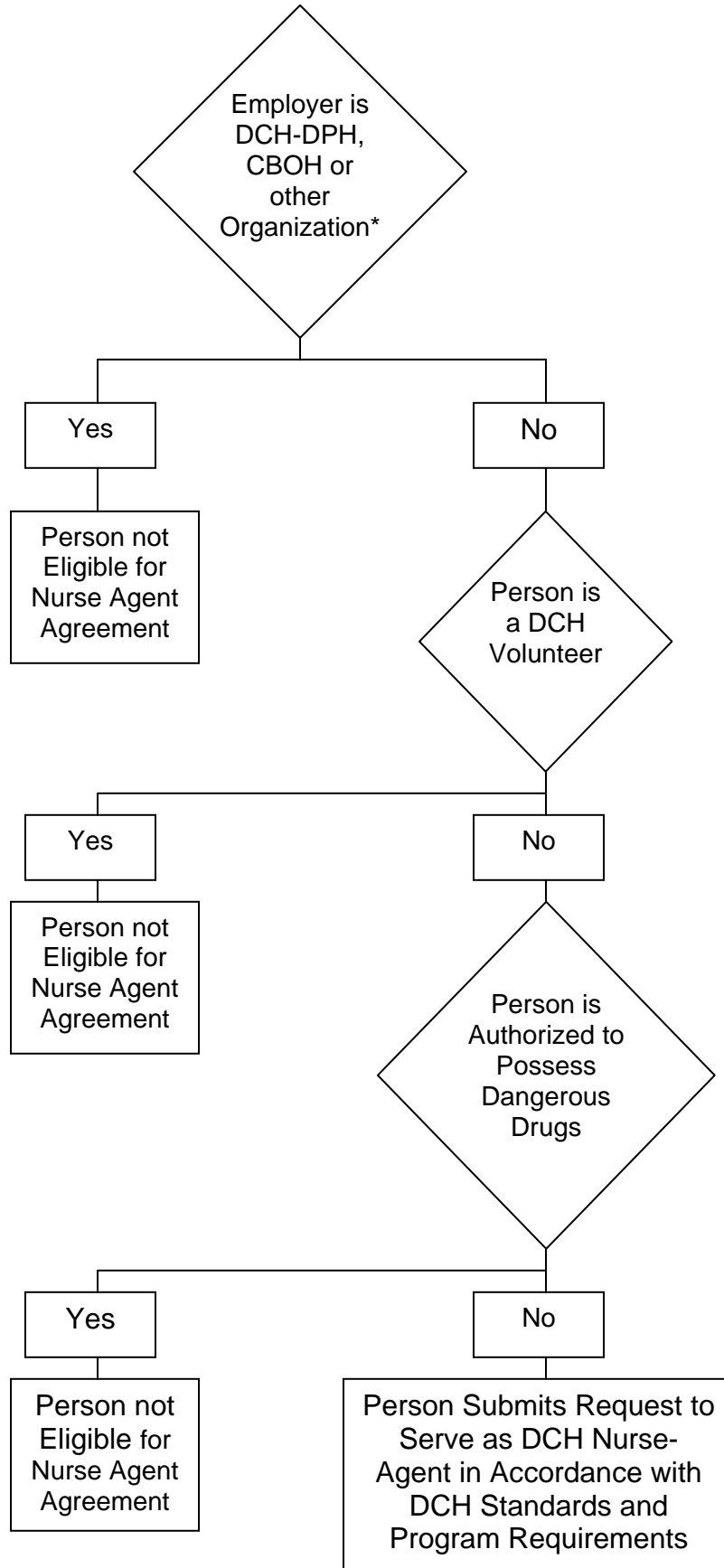
Georgia State Board of Pharmacy Rules: Chapter 480.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

1. If the following criteria are met, the person may be eligible to serve as a DCH Nurse Agent under nurse protocol:
  - a) The person is currently licensed as a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) by the Georgia Board of Nursing; and
  - b) The person is not serving as a DCH volunteer who has signed the DCH Volunteer Form; and
  - c) The person is not an employee of the Division of Public Health of the Department of Community Health, any County Board of Health, any organization which is exempt from federal taxes pursuant to Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in Code Section 48-1-2, other than an organization which is a hospital, preferred provider organization, health maintenance organization, or similar organization; or established under the authority of or receiving funds pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 254b or 254c of the United States Public Health Services Act, which organization provides that those medical services and dangerous drugs which are ordered or dispensed by its physician's assistants and nurses will be provided at no cost to the patient or at a cost based solely upon the patient's ability to pay; and
  - d) The person is not already authorized to possess dangerous drugs, pursuant to Title 16, Chapter 13 and Title 26, Chapter 4.

2. If all of the above criteria are met, the person may submit a request to DCH to serve as a DCH Nurse Agent under nurse protocol and must meet all DCH standards and program requirements. Information regarding how to submit such a request to DCH may be found at <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization/index.asp>.
3. Examples of persons who may be eligible to serve as DCH Nurse Agents under nurse protocol include the following:
  - a) School nurses (RNs), licensed by the Georgia Board of Nursing and employed by the local Board of Education (BOE) who will administer influenza vaccines, and/or other vaccines, to students, faculty and staff.
  - b) Individual RNs licensed by the Georgia Board of Nursing who are employed by a private company or organization that is not authorized to possess dangerous drugs pursuant to Title 16, Chapter 13 and Title 26, Chapter 4.

# Algorithm for Determining Eligibility for Services as DCH Nurse Agent Under Nurse Protocol



\*DCH-DPH = Department of Community Health, Division of Public Health

CBOH = County Board of Health

*Other Organization:*

Organization which is exempt from federal taxes pursuant to Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in Code Section 48-1-2, other than an organization which is a hospital, preferred provider organization, health maintenance organization, or similar organization; or established under the authority of or receiving funds pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 254b or 254c of the United States Public Health Services Act, which organization provides that those medical services and dangerous drugs which are ordered or dispensed by its physician's assistants and nurses will be provided at no cost to the patient or at a cost based solely upon the patient's ability to pay [O.C.G.A. § 43-34-23].