



**Suburban
Hospital Alliance**
of New York State, LLC

SUPPORT MEMO

Date: May 18, 2023
To: Hudson Valley and Long Island Legislators
From: Wendy Darwell, President & CEO
Re: A.6030-B (Paulin) – Recommit to Assembly Health
S.6886 (Rivera) – 5/12 referred to Senate Health

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, representing hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley, supports A.6030-B/S.6886, which would expand the use of non-patient specific standing orders.

Standing orders allow registered nurses to assess a patient's medical condition and provide needed care, within their scope of practice, in cases where it would be inappropriate to wait for a physician's order for the specific patient. Hospitals are required by federal regulation to develop, through a collaborative process between physicians and nurses, clinical protocols for when such standing orders may be utilized. These protocols must be reviewed at least annually.

State statute currently authorizes the use of standing orders under limited circumstances; A.6030/S.6886 would allow hospitals to establish protocols to utilize standing orders more broadly than currently allowed. Where clinically appropriate and in accordance with hospital-developed policies, registered nurses would be permitted to:

- Order an electrocardiogram (EKG);
- Administer blood glucose screenings;
- Order sepsis laboratory screening and initiate IVs;
- Order pre-procedure pregnancy tests;
- Administer COVID-19 vaccines; and
- Order age-related cancer screenings.

This legislation would empower nurses to act in the best interests of their patients, decrease wait times at hospital emergency rooms and improve the efficiency of care. Many nurses have been safely ordering and administering this care under pandemic emergency waivers. They should be authorized to continue doing so. We urge the Legislature to enact A.6030/S.6886.