



TELEHEALTH/TELENURSING

POSITION STATEMENT
for RN and LPN Practice

A Position Statement is not a regulation of the NC Board of Nursing and does not carry the force and effect of law and rules. A Position Statement is not an interpretation, clarification, or other delineation of the scope of practice of the Board. A Position Statement is adopted by the Board as a means of providing direction to licensees who seek to engage in safe nursing practice. Board Position Statements address issues of concern to the Board relevant to protection of the public and are reviewed regularly for relevance and accuracy to current practice, the Nursing Practice Act, and Board Administrative Code Rules.

Issue:

Licensed nurses (RN and LPN) may practice nursing using telehealth/telenursing modalities, provided required criteria are met.

The NCBON has determined that nursing practice occurs at the location of the client at the time services are being provided.

Licensed nurses practicing and providing client care via telehealth/telenursing modalities are required to be licensed or hold the privilege to practice in the state(s) where the client(s) is located. Licensed nurses must practice in compliance with the laws, rules, and standards of practice of the state(s) where the client(s) is/are located.

Definition:

Telehealth/telenursing (alternatively termed telemedicine) is the practice of healthcare within a professionally designated scope of practice using electronic communication, information technology, or other means between a licensee in one location and a client in another location with or without an intervening healthcare provider.

RN Role:

Telehealth/telenursing includes assessing (including triaging) clients; planning, implementing, and evaluating client care; teaching and counseling clients; managing and supervising the delivery of care; teaching nursing personnel/students; administering nursing services; collaborating; and consulting.

LPN Role:

Must be supervised by an RN, physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other person authorized by state law to provide the supervision.

Telehealth/telenursing by the LPN includes participating in assessing, planning, and evaluating client care, implementing client care according to an established health care plan, and collaborating with other healthcare providers in compliance with nursing law and rules (G.S. 90-171.20 (8) and 21 NCAC 36.0225). LPN supervision of others is limited by state laws and rules. It is beyond the scope of LPN practice to perform complex, independent decision-making, such as that potentially required to triage client care needs via telehealth/telenursing modalities.

Both RN and LPN Roles:

1. Report and record nursing care provided.
2. Accept responsibility and accountability for client care via telehealth/telenursing modalities only if possess the documented education and validated competence necessary to deliver nursing services safely.
3. Accept orders for medical interventions via telehealth/telenursing from Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Physician Assistants authorized to make medical diagnoses and prescribe medical regimens.

4. Standing orders and protocols for care must meet requirements as stated in the NCBON Standing Orders Position Statement for RN and LPN Practice available at www.ncbon.com.
5. Employing agency's policies and procedures address telehealth/telenursing services and are available in the facility.

References:

G.S. 90-171.20 (7) & (8) – Nursing Practice Act

21 NCAC 36.0224 - RN Rules

21 NCAC 36.0225 - LPN Rules

NCBON Standing Orders Position Statement for RN and LPN Practice

RN Scope of Practice – Clarification Position Statement for RN Practice

LPN Scope of Practice – Clarification Position Statement for LPN Practice

Approved: 5/2016