



DELEGATION – NON-NURSING FUNCTIONS

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:

Technical tasks which support the care of clients and do not require the professional judgment of a licensed nurse (RN or LPN) are generally considered non-nursing activities and may be delegated by the licensed nurse to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) as allowed by agency policy/procedures, state and federal regulations, and according to delegation principles in Nursing Law and Rules and the NCBON Decision Tree for Delegation to UAP available at www.ncbon.com. Examples of activities are:

Laboratory functions, (capillary blood glucose analysis, phlebotomy),
EKG procedure,
Use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED),
Pulse oximetry and transcutaneous CO₂ monitor,
Handing instruments
X-ray procedures,
Audiometric screening,
Vital signs,
Set up and use of simple durable medical equipment (lifts, wheel chairs, etc.)

Tasks may be delegated to UAP which meet ALL of the following criteria:

- 1) Frequently recur in the daily care of a client or group of clients,
- 2) Are performed according to an established (standardized) sequence of steps,
- 3) Involve little or no modification from one client-care situation to another,
- 4) May be performed with a predictable outcome,
- 5) Do not inherently involve ongoing assessment, interpretation, or decision-making which cannot be logically separated from the procedure(s) itself,
- 6) Do not endanger the health or well-being of clients, and
- 7) Are allowed by agency policy/procedures.

RN Role:

- Teaches UAP common repetitive tasks that do not require professional judgment.
- Validates UAP competency to safely perform activity.
- Supervises UAP performance of delegated tasks.

LPN Role:

- Assures that RN has validated UAP's competency in considered activities.
- Observes delegated tasks assuring performance according to policies, procedures, and standards of practice.

Note: Patient-care activities that are done infrequently should not be delegated by the licensed nurse to unlicensed personnel.

References:

21 NCAC 36.0221 – License Required Rule

Origin 4/1993

Reviewed: 2/2013

Revised: 1/2002, 04/2007; 5/2009; 11/2009, 1/2014