



RN and LPN Scope of Practice Components of Nursing Comparison Chart

By law, the scopes of practice for the registered nurse (RN) and the license practical nurse (LPN) differ. The RN functions at an independent level while the LPN functions at a dependent level. This chart provides a snapshot comparison. For more information, please refer to the NCBON's RN Scope of Practice Position Statement and the LPN Scope of Practice Position Statement available on the North Carolina Board of Nursing's website (www.ncbon.com) under Practice – Position Statements.

Components of Nursing Practice	RN Scope of Practice <i>Independent role</i>	LPN Scope of Practice <i>Dependent role</i>
Accepting an Assignment	Accepts assignments based on variables in nursing practice setting	Accepts assignment dependent on availability of RN supervision and practice setting variables
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determines assessment Collects, verifies, and interprets data in relation to health Formulates nursing diagnoses 	Participates in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collecting data Recognizing relationship to diagnosis Determining immediate need for intervention
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies client's needs Determines priorities of nursing diagnoses, nursing care goals, and interventions appropriate to client 	Participates in identifying client's needs through suggestion of goals and interventions for review by RN
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements plan of care including procuring resources Assignment, delegation, and supervision of licensed and unlicensed personnel 	Implements established plan of care with following limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RN supervision required Assignment to other LPNs and delegation to UAPs Supervision by LPN limited to assuring that tasks have been completed according to agency policies and procedures
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluates both effectiveness of nursing interventions and achievement of expected outcomes Modifies plan of care 	Participates in evaluation by identifying client's response to nursing intervention and suggesting to the RN revision to plan of care
Reporting and Recording	Reports and Records	Reports and Records
Collaborating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates and works cooperatively with individuals whose services may affect client's health care Initiates, coordinates, plans, and implements nursing care of client within the multidisciplinary team 	Participates in collaboration as assigned by the RN
Teaching and Counseling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible to teach and counsel clients, families and groups Identifies learning needs Develops and evaluates teaching plans Makes referrals to appropriate resources 	Participates in teaching and counseling of clients and families as assigned by the RN through the implementation of an established teaching plan or protocol
Managing Nursing Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages nursing care Supervises, teaches, and evaluates nursing personnel 	Not within the LPN scope of practice NOTE: See limited supervisory role for LPN in the Implementation Section above.
Administering Nursing Services	Administers nursing services	Not within the LPN scope of practice
Accepting Responsibility for Self	Accepts responsibility for self	Accepts responsibility for self