

RN Delegating Select Nursing Tasks to Unlicensed Personnel

The Nurse Practice Act, specifically LRS 37:913.(14).(f), provides that a registered nurse may delegate nursing interventions to qualified nursing personnel in accordance with criteria established by the Board.

The Louisiana Administrative Code, specially LAC 46:XLVII.3703.A.12, provides criteria which must be met when any delegation takes place, as follows:

- i. The person has been adequately trained for the task.
- ii. The person has demonstrated that the task has been learned.
- iii. The person can perform the task safely in the given nursing situation.
- iv. The patient's status is safe for the person to carry out the task.
- v. Appropriate supervision is available during the task implementation.
- vi. The task is in an established policy of the nursing practice setting and the policy is written, recorded, and available to all.

Contingent upon the registered nurse's evaluation of each patient's condition, and also upon the registered nurse's evaluation of the competency of each unlicensed nursing personnel, registered nurses may delegate non-complex tasks to unlicensed nursing personnel.

The rules then define a non-complex task as "one that can safely be performed according to exact directions, with no need to alter the standard procedure, and the results are predictable". A task is defined as complex if it requires consideration of a number of factors in order to perform the procedure, or if it requires judgment to determine how to proceed from one step to the next. The administration of medications is specifically identified as a complex task. Given these provisos, the Board of Nursing has rendered the following opinions related to the registered nurse delegating selected nursing functions to unlicensed personnel in specific settings.

Function	May be Delegated	May Not be Delegated	Setting
Nutrition	Permanent gastrostomy tube feeding (npop 87.07) ~Perm. gastrostomy tube/PEG feeding (npop 99.02) One-touch glucose monitoring (npop 95.07)	Nasogastric tube feeding (npop 87.07) *IV Therapy (npop 96.04)	Home Health Hospital ~Day Care Setting *Hospital
Elimination	Catheterization, RN supervision is immediately available (npop 87.38) Clean intermittent catheterization (npop 90.19) Empty & measure drains (npop 93.03)	*Removal of fecal impaction Irrigation of a colostomy (npop 89.11)	Emergency Department Group Homes Skilled Nursing Facility

	by RN (npop 93.03)		
Skin	Wound taping, e.g. steristrips (npop 95.21) Dressing removal & application (npop 95.22) Removal of sutures & staples (npop 97.04) Cleanse mature, healed PEG tube site with soap & water or 30% hydrogen peroxide (npop 98.06)		Hospital Hospital Hospital Home Health

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