

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

	Urine specimen, indwelling urinary catheter port (npop 93.21) Intake & Output measurements (npop96.04) Clean intermittent catheterization, with provisos (npop97.12) Changing a Colostomy appliance, with provisos (npop 00.05)		Hospital Hospital *Home Health Aides Home Health Home Health
Oxygenation	Postural drainage, percussion, suctioning of the pharynx & of a well-healed, mature tracheostomy (npop 92.08) Incentive spirometry (npop 93.03)		Community Home Skilled Nursing Facility
Cardiovascular	Doppler for BP/Pulse checks (npop 93.03) EKG, placing of leads & probes (npop96.04) Phlebotomy (npop96.25)	*Groin and pulse checks (npop 96.03) Monitors, setting up & placing Hemodynamic monitoring (npop96.04)	Skilled Nursing Facility Hospital Hospital *Hospital
Comfort/Pain	Heating pad, ice packs (npop 93.03)	Diathermy or other deep heat (npop 93.03)	Skilled Nursing Facility
Medication	Over-the-counter disposable enemas Saline or vinegar vaginal douches Glycerine & dulcolax rectal suppositories Over-the-counter ointments, simple wound care Over-the counter analgesic joint creams (npop 89.11)	Betadine & phisohex douches Terramycin ointment to wounds Cleansing wounds with peroxide, betadine, phisohex, & cara klenz (npop 89.11)	Home Health Aides
Safety	Transfer of Patients Open sterile packs Alert nurse, e.g., IV alarm, electrodes displaced Proper placement of oxygen catheter (npop 93.03)	Initiate or change flow rate (npop 93.03)	Skilled Nursing Facility
Activity & Mobility	Exercise, Activity, ADL (npop 93.03)		Skilled Nursing Facility
Communications	Dietary, tray Transport, patient to another department Reinforce RN teaching, e.g., incentive spirometry Show video as directed		

	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

Revised 1/98; 12/98; 2/01