

Delegation Decision-Making Process

Licensed Practical Nurses/Unlicensed Nursing Personnel

Introduction:

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) has the legal responsibility to regulate the practice of nursing and to provide guidance regarding the delegation of nursing interventions by the Registered Nurse (RN) to other competent nursing personnel.

The authority to delegate varies from state-to-state. Louisiana, R.S. 37:913(14)(f) provides that registered nursing includes delegating nursing interventions to qualified nursing personnel in accordance with criteria established by the LSBN. LAC 46:XLVII.3703 sets the standards for the implementation of the statutory mandate.

The RN who delegates nursing interventions retains the responsibility and accountability to assure that the delegated intervention is performed in accord with established standards of practice, policies and procedures. Appropriate assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation are integral activities in the fulfillment of the RN's responsibility and accountability.

Decision-Making Process:

The '*Decision Tree for Delegation of Certain Tasks to Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)*' and the '*Decision Tree for Delegation of Certain Tasks to Unlicensed Nursing Personnel (UNPs)*' graphically represent practical guidelines to direct the RN in the delegation decision-making process. Concurrent reference to the above-cited statutory and administrative mandates is essential to the appropriate utilization of this tool.

As one moves through the "Tree," the following questions must be answered:

- **Is the task within the RN's scope of practice?** Refer to the [Louisiana Nurse Practice Act](#) (i.e. Louisiana Revised Statutes) R.S. §37:913(14)(f); [LSBN Rules and Regulations](#) (i.e. Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46:XLVII - Nurses) LAC 46:XLVII §3703; and interpretations of the statutes and rules by the LSBN (i.e. [LSBN Declaratory Statements](#) and [LSBN Advisory Practice Opinions](#)). If the task is not within the RN's scope of practice, do not proceed with delegation.

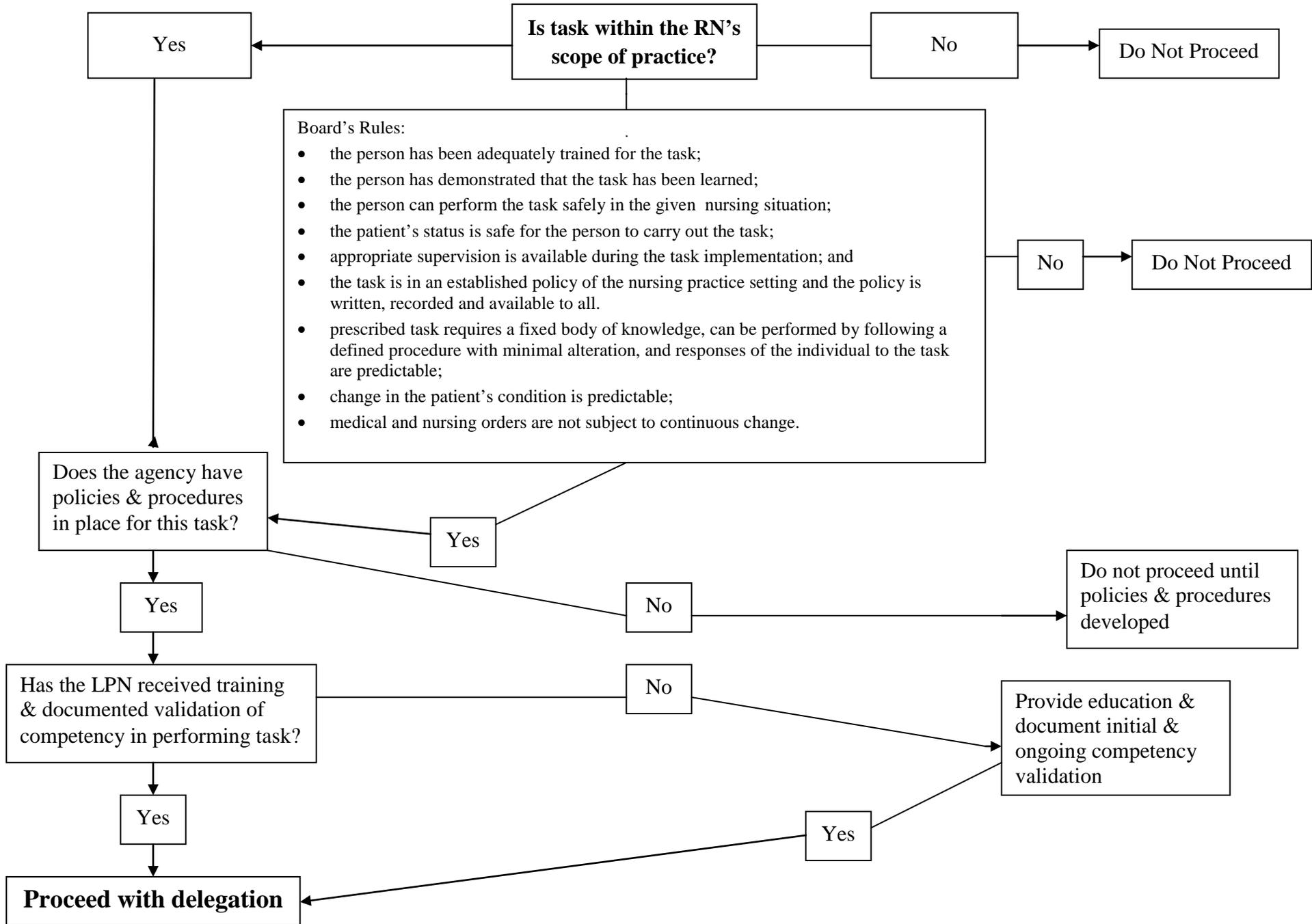
- **Does the delegation of this task meet the requirements of the administrative rules on delegation?** Evaluate in accord with the Board's rules on delegation. If the task and situation do not meet the criteria set in the rules, do not proceed with delegation.

- **Does the agency or nursing employer have written policies and procedures in place for this task?** Identify appropriate officially adopted policies and procedures. If these are absent, do not proceed until policies and procedures have been developed and duly promulgated/approved by personnel authorized by the agency/employer.

- **Has the LPN/UNP received training and has the validation of competency in performing task been documented?** Determine whether or not the task was included in the initial educational curriculum which prepared the LPN or UNP, learned later in an approved continuing education offering, workshop or in-service program authorized by the agency/employer. If not, do not proceed until the required education has been provided and there is documentation of competency validation.

- **If all of the above questions are "yes," proceed with delegation.**

Decision Tree for Delegation of Certain Tasks to Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)



Decision Tree for Delegation of Certain Tasks to Unlicensed Nursing Personnel (UNPs)

