

Chapter N 10

**STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR REGISTERED NURSES
AND LICENSED TRAINED PRACTICAL NURSES**

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N 10.01 Authority and intent. (1) This chapter is adopted pursuant to authority of ss. 15.08 (5) (b), 227.014 and 441.11 (1) and (2), Stats., and interprets the statutory definitions of professional and practical nursing.

(2) The intent of the board of nursing in adopting this chapter is to specify minimum practice standards for which R.N.s and L.P.N.s are responsible, and to clarify the scope of practice for R.N.s and L.P.N.s.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83.

N 10.02 Definitions. As used in this chapter,

(1) "Basic nursing care" means care that can be performed following a defined nursing procedure with minimal modification in which the responses of the patient to the nursing care are predictable.

(2) "Basic patient situation" as determined by an R.N., physician, podiatrist or dentist means the following 3 conditions prevail at the same time in a given situation:

- (a) The patient's clinical condition is predictable;
- (b) Medical or nursing orders are not changing frequently and do not contain complex modifications; and
- (c) The patient's clinical condition requires only basic nursing care.

(3) "Complex patient situation" as determined by an R.N., physician, podiatrist or dentist means any one or more of the following conditions exist in a given situation:

- (a) The patient's clinical condition is not predictable;
- (b) Medical or nursing orders are likely to involve frequent changes or complex modifications; or
- (c) The patient's clinical condition indicates care that is likely to require modification of nursing procedures in which the responses of the patient to the nursing care are not predictable.

(4) "Delegated medical act" means acts delegated to an R.N. or L.P.N. by a physician, dentist or podiatrist.

(5) "Delegated nursing act" means acts delegated to an R.N. and L.P.N. by an R.N.

(6) "Direct supervision" means immediate availability to continually coordinate, direct and inspect at first hand the practice of another.

(7) "General supervision" means immediate availability to continually coordinate, direct and inspect at first hand the practice of another.

(8) "Nursing diagnosis" means a judgment made by an R.N. following a nursing assessment of a patient's actual or potential health needs for the purpose of establishing a nursing care plan.

(9) "Patient" means a person receiving nursing care by an R.N. or L.P.N. performing nursing services for compensation.

(10) "Protocol" means a precise and detailed written plan for a regimen of therapy.

(11) "R.N." means a registered nurse licensed under ch. 441, Stats.

(12) "L.P.N." means a licensed trained practical nurse licensed under ch. 441, Stats.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83.

N 10.03 Standards of practice for registered nurses. (1) **GENERAL NURSING PROCEDURES.** An R.N. shall utilize the nursing process in the execution of general nursing procedures in the maintenance of health, prevention of illness or care of the ill. The nursing process consists of the steps of assessment, planning, intervention and evaluation. This standard is met through performance of each of the following steps of the nursing process:

(a) *Assessment.* Assessment is the systematic and continual collection and analysis of data about the health status of a patient culminating in the formulation of a nursing diagnosis.

(b) *Planning.* Planning is developing a nursing plan of care for a patient which includes goals and priorities derived from the nursing diagnosis.

(c) *Intervention.* Intervention is the nursing action to implement the plan of care by directly administering care or by directing and supervising nursing acts delegated to R.N.'s, L.P.N.s or less skilled assistants.

(d) *Evaluation.* Evaluation is the determination of a patient's progress or lack of progress toward goal achievement which may lead to modification of the nursing diagnosis.

(2) **PERFORMANCE OF DELEGATED MEDICAL ACTS.** In the performance of delegated medical acts in the treatment of the sick an R.N. shall:

(a) Accept only those delegated medical acts for which there are protocols or written or verbal orders;

(b) Accept only those delegated medical acts for which the R.N. is competent to perform based on his or her nursing education, training or experience;

(c) Consult with a physician, dentist or podiatrist in cases where the R.N. knows or should know a delegated medical act may harm a patient; and