

**Vermont State Board of Nursing
LNA Scope of Practice
Position Statement**

Question:

How does one determine whether a specified activity is within the scope of practice of a Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA)?

Definitions:

Scope of Practice: an LNA's scope of practice includes all the activities that a Licensed Nursing Assistant may perform while practicing as an LNA.

Licensed Nursing Assistant: a licensed individual, listed on the registry, regardless of title, who performs nursing or nursing related functions under the supervision of a licensed nurse

Nursing and nursing related functions: nursing related activities as defined by rule which include basic nursing and restorative duties for which the nursing assistant is prepared by education and supervised practice

Background:

The legal basis for the scope of nursing and nursing related functions in Vermont is the Vermont Nurse Practice Act (Title 26, Chapter 28 of the Vermont Statutes). An activity must be consistent with information contained in the Nurse Practice Act in order to be within the scope of practice of an LNA.

As defined in the Administrative Rules, curriculum for LNA programs shall include training in:

- (1) Basic Nursing Skills;
- (2) Personal Care Skills;
- (3) Basic restorative Skills;
- (4) Mental Health and Psychosocial Skills;
- (5) Communication Skills; and
- (6) Nursing Team Member Skills

The skills and tasks on the following page delineate the basic skills within the LNA scope of practice.

Position Statement which Reflects the LNA's Roles and Responsibilities:

Every LNA is accountable for practicing within the LNA scope of practice. Successful completion of an approved nursing assistant education program and passing the state competency exam imply basic competency in the skills and tasks listed in the LNA scope of practice.

Additional tasks and skills may be performed by LNAs through the delegation process by RNs and LPNs. The Vermont Board of Nursing Position Statement "The Role of the Nurse in Delegating Nursing Interventions" includes a decision tree for delegating to licensed and unlicensed assistive personnel.

An LNA may not perform activities which exceed the scope defined by the level of licensure. This means that LNAs may not perform, even if directed to do so, an activity not appropriate to their level of licensure or otherwise prohibited by law. Examples of activities not within the LNA scope of practice include: nursing assessments, nursing judgments, and development of the plan of care.

References/Citations:

Title 26 VSA Chapter 28 - § 1592. Definitions

Administrative Rules Chapter 5, Subchapter 1 (H)

Vermont Board of Nursing Position Statement: The Role of the Nurse in Delegating Nursing Interventions

Date of Initial acceptance: January 2011

Revised (Date) _____

Revised (Date) _____

Reviewed (Date) _____

LNA Scope of Practice Skills and Tasks

MOBILITY/AMBULATION:
One person
Use of cane
Use of walker
Application of gait belt
Proper use of wheelchair
BEDMAKING:
Occupied/unoccupied
BODY MECHANICS:
Student/Caregiver
COMMUNICATION:
With verbal resident(s)
With non-verbal resident(s)
With resident(s) with cognitive impairments
With resident(s) with sensory loss(es)
Reporting any observed changes in residents to the appropriate personnel
INFECTION CONTROL:
Application/removal of gloves
Handling soiled items
Handwashing
Application of personal protective equipment
Proper documentation on flowsheets
NUTRITION:
I & O documentation
Serving food/beverages
Feeding
CATHETER CARE:
Cleaning tubing
Empty & measure
SUPPORTIVE:
ROM-active
ROM-passive
Alignment in bed
Alignment in chair
Position pillows
Support splints
Turning/repositioning
Skin protectors
Support hose
TRANSFERS:
Chair to commode
Bed to wheelchair
One person
Two person
Mechanical lift
TOILETING:
Assisting with toileting
Urinal
Bed pan

Adult briefs
Collection of urine specimen
VITAL SIGNS/MEASUREMENTS:
Temperature oral/tympanic
Temperature rectal
Blood pressure
Radial pulse
Respirations
Weight
Height
PERSONAL CARE:
Bath – complete
Backrub
Lotion to body areas
Peri-care
Nail care
Dressing
Undressing
Hair care
Eye glasses
Hearing aid
Shave
Shampoo
ORAL CARE:
Brushing teeth
Denture care
Use of swab
SAFETY:
Use of call bell
Use of side rails
Heimlich maneuver
PRIVACY CURTAIN

List as of August 2010

Decision Tree

