

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING

THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN DELEGATING NURSING INTERVENTIONS POSITION STATEMENT

Question: What is the role of the RN and LPN in delegating nursing interventions?

Definitions:

Delegation:

Transferring to a competent individual the authority to perform a selected nursing task in a selected situation.

Authority:

The RN or LPN retains accountability for the delegation.

Supervision:

The provision of guidance and oversight by the RN or LPN for accomplishment of the nursing task delegated.

Assistive Personnel:

Individuals who are trained to function in an assistive role to the RN or LPN in the provision of patient care activities as delegated by the licensed nurse. This term includes but is not limited to licensed nursing assistants and unlicensed personnel.

Background:

The RN and LPN delegate tasks based on the needs and condition of the patient, potential for harm, stability of the patient's condition, complexity of the task, predictability of the outcomes, and the abilities of the staff to whom the task is delegated. Although a variety of tasks and services may be performed by assistive personnel, assessment, evaluations and nursing judgment cannot be delegated.

Tasks performed by assistive personnel are delegated to be performed under specific circumstances and after proper assessment. These tasks are not transferable by assistive personnel to another care setting for another patient without proper assessment and re-delegation.

Position Statement which Reflects Nurse's Roles and Responsibilities:

RNs and LPNs have the authority to delegate nursing intervention that may be performed by others. (26 V.S.A.,§1572(G)(F))

The attached Delegation Decision Tree provides guidance for the RN and LPN when making delegation decisions.

The LPN may delegate specific tasks to other LPNs and unlicensed personnel only after the RN has assessed the client and determined through the care planning process the tasks that may be performed by each level of licensed or unlicensed personnel.

References/Citations:

The Board of Nursing supports:

- National Council of State Boards of Nursing Delegation: Concepts and Decision-Making Process and the Delegation Decision-Making Tree (1995)

- Joint Statement on Delegation of the American Nurse Association (ANA) and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) (2006).

Date of Initial acceptance: May 2007

Revised (Date) November 2009 – Approved by Board

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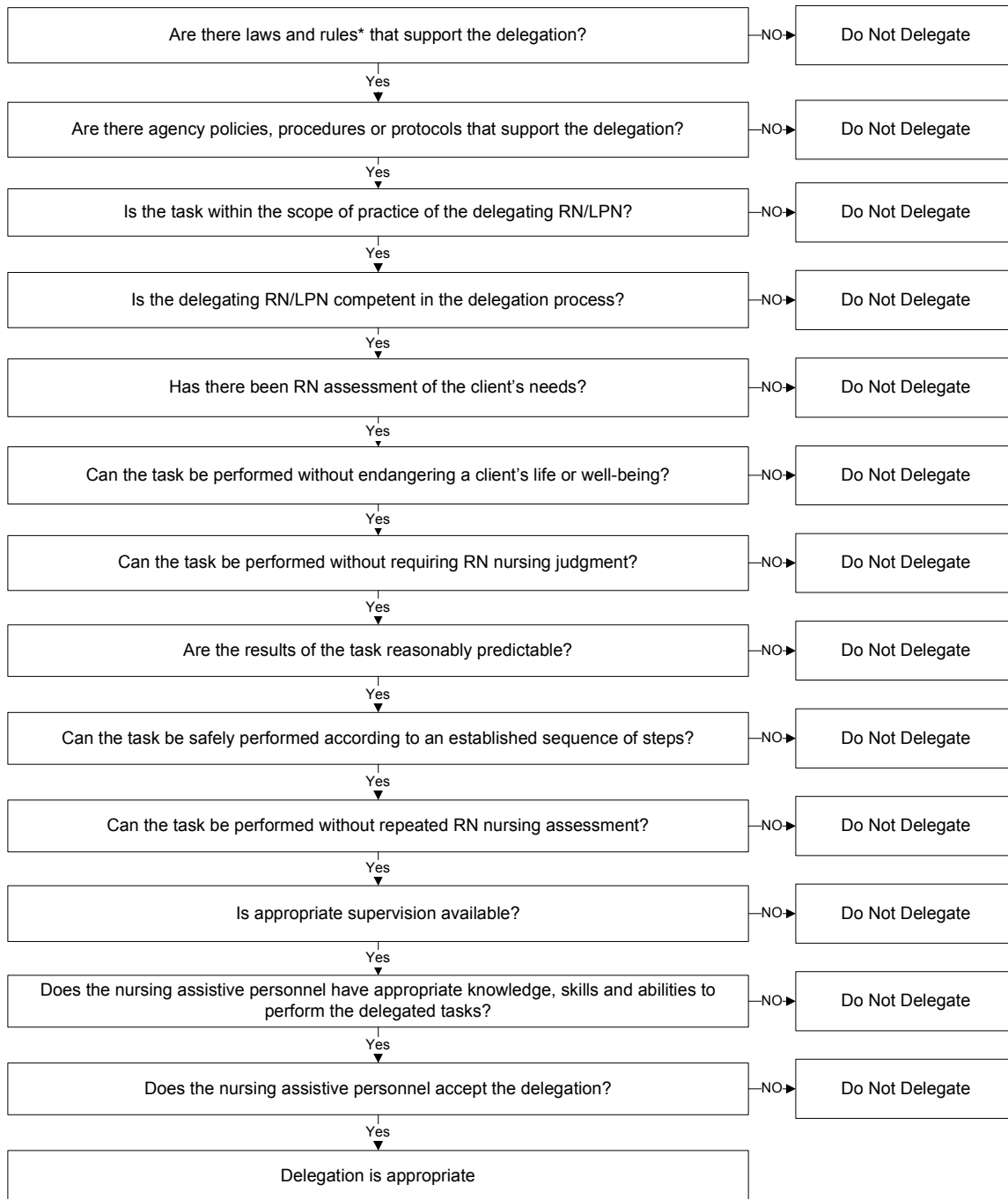
Revised (Date) _____

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This opinion is subject to change as changes in nursing practice occur.

Vermont Board of Nursing

Decision Tree for RN/LPN Delegation to Licensed and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel



*Vermont Statute: 26 V.S.A., §1572(G)(F)

*Vermont Administrative Rule: Chapter 2 Subchapter 10