

Delegation of Nursing Care Activities

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) believes every patient has the right to professional nursing care that encompasses all aspects of the nursing process and meets or exceeds the *ANNA Nephrology Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice* and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions for Coverage. The practice of each nurse must comply with the scope of practice, regulations/laws, and licensure requirements of the state in which they are employed. The care of each patient includes, but is not limited to, assessment of patient needs, the development of a comprehensive interdisciplinary patient specific plan of care, implementation of nursing interventions, and the monitoring and evaluation of patient outcomes. The ultimate goal of the nursing process is to effect positive patient outcomes in the most cost-effective way. ANNA recognizes that achievement of favorable patient outcomes is a collaborative effort between all members of the interdisciplinary team.

It is the position of ANNA that:

- The RN uses critical thinking and professional judgment when following the Five **Rights** of Delegation, to be sure that the delegation or assignment is:
 1. The **right** task
 2. Under the **right** circumstances
 3. To the **right** person
 4. With the **right** directions and communications; and
 5. Under the **right** supervision and evaluation

(Joint Statement on Delegation American Nurses Association (ANA) and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN))
- The registered nurse must never delegate a nursing care activity that requires:
 - a. The knowledge and expertise derived from completion of a nursing education program and the specialized skill, judgment and decision-making of a registered nurse.
 - b. Complex observation, critical decision-making, exercise of nursing judgment, or repeated nursing assessments.
 - c. An understanding of the core nephrology nursing principles necessary to recognize and manage real or potential complications that may result in an adverse outcome to the health and safety of the patient.
- The registered nurse is accountable for the:
 - a. Safety of the patient
 - b. Nursing process
 - c. Patient Assessment
 - d. Delegation of nursing tasks appropriate to the delegates' documented knowledge, skills, cultural competence, experience, and abilities, within the scope of practice, and the licensure requirements in effect in the state in which the nurse is employed.

- Delegation of nursing care activities to licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/LVNs) and/or certified dialysis patient care technicians (PCT)/ Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT) shall comply with the following criteria:
 - a. The registered nurse must complete an assessment of the patient's nursing care needs prior to delegating any nursing intervention.
 - b. The registered nurse shall be accountable and responsible for all delegated nursing care activities or interventions, and she/he must remain present in the patient care area for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the patient's response to the therapy.
 - c. The patient care activities must be within the licensure and/or certification requirements for the LPN/LVN or PCT/CCHT, practice setting, scope of practice, and the licensure requirements in effect in the state in which the nurse is employed. Additional specific facility/agency policies and procedures related to delegation may also apply.
 - d. The registered nurse shall have either instructed the LPN/LVN or PCT/CCHT in the delegated nursing care activity or verified the individual's competency to perform the activity. Persons to whom tasks are delegated should have the opportunity to ask questions and/or request clarification of expectations.
 - e. Clinical competency of these individual's will be documented and available, and verified at least annually.
 - f. Administration of medication is a nursing responsibility requiring knowledge of the indications, pharmacokinetic action, potential adverse reactions, correct dosage and contraindications, and, in general, is beyond the scope of practice of a PCT/CCHT. Administration of medications by PCT/CCHT's shall be limited to those medications considered part of the routine hemodialysis treatment, that is, normal saline and heparin via the extracorporeal circuit, intradermal lidocaine, and oxygen by nasal cannula, as allowed by the scope of practice, and licensure requirements in effect in the state in which the nurse or PCT/CCHT is employed.
 - g. Administration of any blood products and/or intravenous medications by infusion is a nursing responsibility and beyond the scope of practice of the PCT/CCHT.
- The registered nurse is legally accountable and clinically responsible for the complete documentation of the entire nursing process. When certain aspects of the nursing care activities or interventions are delegated to other personnel, the registered nurse retains the legal accountability and clinical responsibility for these activities.
- Registered Nurses are accountable and responsible for the assignment or delegation of nursing activities. Such assignments or delegation must be consistent with state practice acts, organizational policy and nursing standards of practice.

Background and Rationale

The relationship between the registered nurse and the patient constitutes a legal and binding contract. The existence of this contract has been established through case law.

ANNA recognizes potential contributions to the care of nephrology patients by LPN/LVNs and PCT/CCHT's. The scope of practice of the registered nurse in the state where the nurse is employed may limit delegation of nursing care activities or interventions to these licensed and certified personnel.

References

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- Gomez, N. (2017). *Nephrology nursing scope and standards of practice* (8th ed.). Pitman, NJ: American Nephrology Nurses Association.
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and American Nurses Association. (2015). Joint statement on delegation. Retrieved from https://www.ncsbn.org/Delegation_joint_statement_NCSBN-ANA.pdf

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