

NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

RN and LPN Practice

Guidance regarding the interpretation and application of the Nurse Practices Act (NPA) may be adopted by the ND Board of Nursing (Board) as a means of providing direction to licensees and stakeholders who seek to ensure safe nursing practice and to address issues of concern relevant to public protection. (North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 43-12.1-08(2)(p)).

Board approved practice guidance does not carry the force and effect of law or rules. Each licensed nurse (nurse) is responsible and accountable to practice according to the standards of practice prescribed by the board and the profession; and must accept responsibility for judgments, individual nursing actions, competence, decisions, and behavior in the course of nursing practice. (Standards of Practice, North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) 54-05-01-07 and 54-05-02-04). "Competence": means the application and integration of knowledge, skills, ability, and judgment necessary to meet standards. (NDAC 54-01-03-01(16)).

By law, the scopes of practice for the registered nurse (RN) and the license practical nurse (LPN) differ. The RN functions at an independent level while the LPN functions at a dependent level. This chart provides a snapshot comparison. For more information, please refer to the NDCC (Chapter 43-12.1), the NDAC (Title 54), and the NDBON's Practice FAQ available on the North Dakota Board of Nursing's website www.ndbon.org under FAQ – [Practice FAQ](#).

RN and LPN Scope of Practice: Components of Nursing Comparison Chart

Components of Nursing Practice	RN Scope of Practice <i>Independent role</i>	LPN Scope of Practice <i>Dependent role</i>
Accepting an Assignment	Accepts assignment based on variables in nursing practice setting and individual competency.	Accepts assignment based on practice setting variables including availability of RN supervision, & individual competency. The LPN practices nursing dependently under the direction of the RN, advanced practice RN (APRN), or licensed practitioner.
Assessment	Conducts a comprehensive nursing assessment based on the client's immediate condition or needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collects, verifies, analyzes, and interprets data in relation to health status • Formulates nursing diagnoses • Determines extent and frequency of assessment needed 	Conducts a focused nursing assessment of the stable or predictable client : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collects and communicates data • Recognizes relationship to health status & treatment • Demonstrates attentiveness and provides client surveillance and monitoring • Determines immediate need for intervention
Planning	Develops client plan of care based on nursing assessment and diagnoses that prescribe interventions to attain expected outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies client's needs • Prioritizes nursing diagnoses • Determines nursing care goals • Determines interventions appropriate to client 	Participates with other licensed practitioner in planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to the evaluation of the plan of care by gathering, observing, recording, and communicating client responses to nursing interventions • Modifies the plan of care in collaboration with a RN, advanced practice RN (APRN), or licensed practitioner • Care of a client whose condition is stable or predictable
Implementation	Implements plan of care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies nursing knowledge based on the integration of the biological, psychological, and social aspects of the client's condition • Utilizes decision-making, critical thinking, and clinical judgement to make independent nursing decisions and nursing diagnosis • Procures resources • Assigns, delegates, and supervises licensed and unlicensed personnel • Promotes a safe environment 	Implements nursing interventions and prescribed medical regimens in a timely and safe manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN, APRN or licensed practitioner supervision required • Assigns nursing care to other LPNs and delegates to UAPs • Supervision by LPN limited to assuring that tasks assigned to an LPN or delegated to a UAP have been completed according to standards and agency policies and procedures • Promotes a safe environment

Components of Nursing Practice	RN Scope of Practice <i>Independent role</i>	LPN Scope of Practice <i>Dependent role</i>
Evaluation	Evaluates and determines effectiveness of nursing interventions and achievement of expected outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revises nursing interventions consistent with the overall healthcare plan Modifies plan of care 	Participates in evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies client's response to nursing intervention and suggests care plan revision to RN Monitors and evaluates the care assigned to an LPN or delegated to a UAP
Reporting and Recording	Reports and Records	Reports and Records
Collaborating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates, collaborates, and consults with other health team members Initiates collaboration through coordinating, planning, and implementing nursing care of client within the multidisciplinary team Participates in multidisciplinary decision-making Seeks & utilizes appropriate resources 	Collaborate and communicate relevant and timely client information with clients and other health team members to ensure quality and continuity of care.
Teaching and Counseling	Provides comprehensive nurse and healthcare education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses and analyzes client's learning needs Plans educational programs Implements and evaluates education plans Makes referrals to appropriate resources 	Participates in the health teaching as approved by the RN, APRN or licensed practitioner.
Administration and Management of the Practice of Nursing	Responsibility to organize, manage and supervise the practice of nursing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervises, monitors, and evaluates the care assigned to a licensed practical nurse Assesses the health status of groups of clients, analyzes data and identifies collective nursing care needs, priorities, and resources needed Assesses the learning needs of nurses and UAPs and establishes training and competencies for those individuals 	<p style="color: red;">Not within the LPN scope of practice NOTE: See limited supervisory role for the LPN in the Implementation Section above.</p> <p style="color: red;">It is not the setting or the position title that determines a nursing practice role but rather the application of nursing knowledge.</p>
Accepting Responsibility	Accepts responsibility for judgments, individual nursing actions, competence, decisions, and behavior in the course of nursing practice.	Accepts responsibility for judgments, individual nursing actions, competence, decisions, and behavior in the course of practical nursing practice.

References:

- [NDCC 43-12.1 Nurse Practices Act](#)
- [NDAC 54-05-02 Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses](#)
- [NDAC 54-05-01 Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses](#)
- [NDAC 54-03.2-06 Curriculum](#)
- North Carolina Board of Nursing, RN and LPN Scope of Practice, 2018

Approved: 10/2020