DECISION MAKING MODEL

Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses

The Decision Making Model is a guide for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) to use when determining whether a specific procedure, task or activity is within the RN's or LPN's scope of practice and, if so, whether the specific procedure, task or activity is consistent with standards of practice, appropriate to perform based on the individual nurse's knowledge and skills, and is appropriate based on the clinical setting.

The Board also publishes Interpretive Guidelines that address specific practices and these are available on the Board website: www.nursing.ohio.gov. However, since it is not possible for the Board to establish Interpretive Guidelines for every procedure, task or activity performed by nurses, the Decision Making Model was developed so nurses could apply it as needed for their specific practices.

All nurses are responsible for knowing and practicing within the legal scope of practice set forth in Section 4723.01(B), Ohio Revised Code (ORC) for RNs and in Section 4723.01(F), ORC, for LPNs. In addition, RNs and LPNs are responsible for knowing and following the Standards of Practice for RNs and LPNs established in Chapter 4723-4, Ohio Administrative Code.

The Nurse Practice Act and the Administrative Rules are available for review in their entirety on the Board of Nursing website under the “Law and Rules” link.

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Define/Describe the activity or task

Is the activity or task within the scope of practice of the nurse and NOT prohibited or precluded by any other law or rule?

The Nurse Practice Act:
Section 4723.01 (B), ORC: practice as an RN
Section 4723.01 (F), ORC: practice as an LPN
Section 4723.43, ORC: practice as an APRN
www.nursing.ohio.gov/law_and_rule.htm

Administrative Rules:
Chapters 4723-1 to 4723-27, OAC
www.nursing.ohio.gov/law_and_rule.htm

Review Other Applicable Laws or Rules:
Pharmacy Practice Act: Chapter 4729., ORC
www.pharmacy.ohio.gov
Medical Practice Act: Chapter 4731., ORC
www.med.ohio.gov

Activity/task NOT within scope and/or prohibited by law or rule

Can the nurse perform the activity or task and meet the standards of safe nursing practice as defined in Chapter 4723-4, OAC?
www.nursing.ohio.gov

Can the nurse demonstrate and document current knowledge, skills, and abilities?

Is this activity or task safe and appropriate to perform with this patient at this time?

The nurse may perform the activity/task according to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care and prepare to accept accountability for the nursing actions

STOP
Do NOT perform the activity or task

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