DECISION-MAKING MODEL

The licensed nurse is legally responsible and accountable for knowing the legally defined scope of nursing practice. The Ohio Board of Nursing has developed this decision-making model to facilitate the nurse’s decision-making within the law regulating the practice of nursing, chapter 4723 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), also known as the Nurse Practice Act, and the rules promulgated from the law, Chapter 4723 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). The law and rules may be accessed through the Board’s website at nursing.ohio.gov.

Nursing practice is dynamic and responsive to societal health needs; therefore, it is generally impractical for the law and rules to list all the specific duties or tasks that licensed nurses may or may not perform. Attempts to delineate all the specific activities of licensed nurses would needlessly impede the growth of the discipline of nursing. It is critical to note that the law and rules require that the licensee provide nursing care only in circumstances which are consistent with one’s preparation, education, experience, knowledge and demonstrated competency.

Adopted 11/17/94
Reaffirmed 5/17/96
Revised 5/21/99
Reaffirmed 7/15/99
Revised 7/20/01
Revised 5/21/04
Can the nurse perform the activity or task and meet the standards of safe nursing practice as defined in Chapter 4723-4 of the Administrative Code?

www.nursing.ohio.gov/law_and_rule.htm

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

Is this activity or task safe and appropriate to perform with this patient/client 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