

Scope of Practice Decision Making Guidelines for All Licensed Nurses

Statement of Purpose

Recognizing that nursing practice changes and evolves in response to the health care needs of society, advancement in technologies, and the expansion of scientific and nursing knowledge, this document serves to provide scope of practice decision making guidelines that are applicable to the practice of the licensed practical nurse (LPN), the registered nurse (RN), and the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), with respect to nursing practice role, function, and one's accountability for nursing practice decisions.

Background/Significance

The Chapter 678 statutes and Chapter 851 administrative rules that comprise Oregon's Nurse Practice Act (NPA) are written broadly and codify a licensee's scope of practice for each nursing licensure category.

Board Statement

While the scope of practice for each licensure category includes all of the activities in which the licensee may engage at his/her level of licensure, it does not include a list of specific procedures or tasks in which nurses may or may not engage.

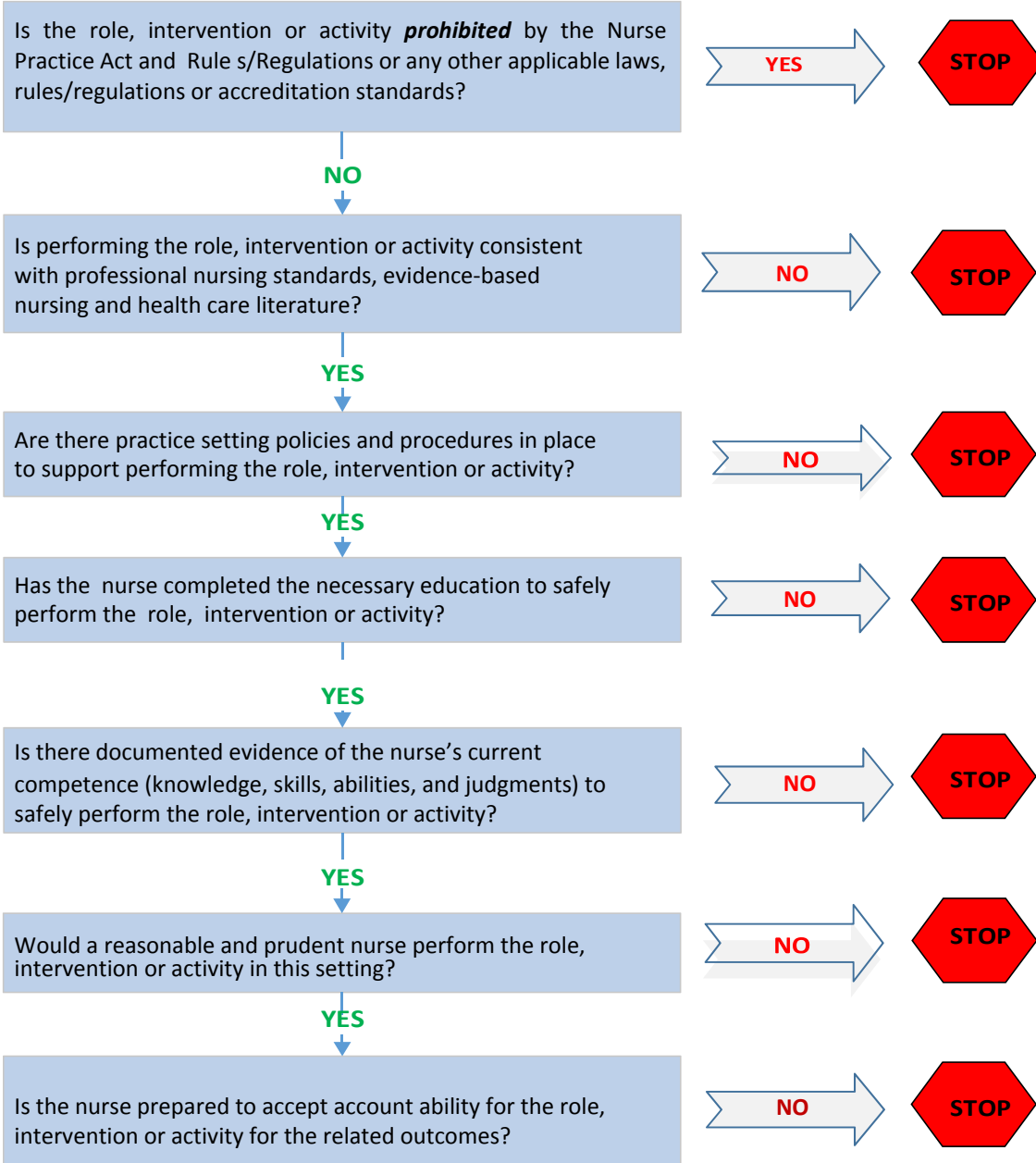
Within the broader scope of practice written in the NPA, the individual scope of practice of each individual licensee will vary according to the licensee's practice experiences, professional development activities, and demonstrated competencies. Each licensed nurse is responsible for determining his/her individual scope of practice that falls within the broader scope of practice set forth in the NPA.

There is no authority for a licensee, another health professional, an employer, or an organization to include activities for the licensee which exceed the broader scope of practice written in the NPA for each nursing licensure category.

Application of the following decision-making guidelines will help the licensee evaluate whether or not a specific practice role, intervention, or activity is within the scope of practice for the licensee's level of licensure, appropriate to occur in the practice setting, and commensurate with the licensee's demonstrated competencies.

Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-Making Framework

Identify, describe, or clarify the role, intervention, or activity under consideration.



Nurse may perform the role, intervention or activity to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care.

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The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) is authorized by Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 678 to exercise general supervision over the practice of nursing in Oregon to include regulation of nursing licensure, education, and practice in order to assure that the citizens of Oregon receive safe and effective care. The OSBN further interprets statute and rule and issues opinions in the form of policies and interpretive statements, which are advisory in nature and issued as guidelines for safe nursing practice.