



Arkansas State Board of Nursing

UNIVERSITY TOWER BUILDING, SUITE 800
1123 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204-1619
Telephone 501.686.2701 • Facsimile 501.686.2714
www.arsbn.org

Position Statement
03-1
School Nurse Guidelines in Patient Care Settings other than Schools

It is the Board's opinion that the Arkansas State Board of Nursing School Nurse Roles and Responsibilities Practice Guidelines may be applied to settings other than schools provided they are used as a whole and not taken out of context. **Further it is the opinion of the Board that it is inappropriate to use these guidelines to approve or deny services to clients.**

In May 2000 the Arkansas State Board of Nursing approved practice guidelines for school nurses. These guidelines were developed to assist the school nurse in determining the nursing care activities that could safely be delegated when certain conditions were met. The guidelines may be applied to other similar settings if:

1. Nursing care is NOT the primary purpose of the client being in the setting,
2. The parent/guardian would do the same nursing task(s) if they were present, and
3. The parent/guardian has given their consent for the unlicensed person to perform the nursing tasks.

In addition, the nurse who delegates nursing care to an unlicensed person must apply the following criteria in determining if it is appropriate to delegate the care:

1. A licensed nurse responsible for the client's nursing care and qualified to determine the appropriate application of delegation to an unlicensed person must assess the client. Periodic reassessment must confirm that the nursing care being delegated to an unlicensed person continues to be appropriate.
2. The client's nursing care needs must be stable.
3. The performance of the nursing care by an unlicensed person must not pose a potential harm to the client.
4. No or little modification can be made in the nursing care provided the client.
5. The nursing care being provided for the client cannot involve ongoing assessments, interpretations, or decision-making.
6. The competency of the unlicensed person to perform the required nursing care is validated and documented. This requires the nurse who is delegating the nursing care to be familiar with the client's needs and with the unlicensed person's skills.
7. Supervision that is required for the individual unlicensed person performing the specific task(s) for a specific client is readily available.
8. The facilities' policies and procedures identify the task(s) that may be delegated to an unlicensed person. The policies and procedures must also recognize that the nurse who is delegating the task(s) is responsible for determining that a task is appropriate to delegate in a specific situation.

Nurses who delegate nursing tasks are responsible and accountable for ensuring that the delegation was appropriate. Unlicensed persons are responsible and accountable for competent performance of the nursing care that is delegated to them which includes calling the delegating nurse for assistance if the client's condition or needs change.

Adopted: February 12, 2003