

SCOPE OF PRACTICE DECISION TREE

The following decision tree was developed by the Tri-Council for Nursing, consisting of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL), and the National League for Nursing (NLN), and was adopted by the Maine State Board of Nursing to assist nurses and their employers in determining the responsibilities a nurse can safely perform. This tool is intended to be used by nurses, facilities, boards of nursing and other stakeholders in determining whether specific activities, interventions, or roles are permitted under the nurse's level of education, licensure, and competence while meeting the standards established by the nurse practice act and rules/regulations of each state or jurisdiction.

1. Describe the act to be performed.

Review the scope of practice for your licensure level.

LPN

contributing to data collection, participating in development of plan of care, implementing aspects of care as directed, maintaining client safety, participating in evaluating care, and assigning tasks to qualified others.

RN

assessment, nursing diagnosis, setting goals, planning care strategies, implementing care, delegating care to qualified others, supervising, evaluating, teaching, managing care, maintaining client safety, collaborating with other health care members.

APRN

assessing clients, synthesizing and analyzing data, understanding and applying nursing principles at an advanced level; providing expert teaching and guidance; working effectively with clients, families and of the members of the health care team; managing clients' physical and psycho-social health-illness status; utilizing research skills; analyzing multiple sources of data, identifying alternative possibilities as to the nature of a health care problem, and selecting appropriate treatment; making independent decisions in solving complex client care problems; performing acts of diagnosing, prescribing, administering and dispensing therapeutic measures; and recognizing limits of knowledge and experience, planning for situations beyond expertise, consulting with or referring to other health care providers as appropriate.

Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-Making Framework

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

