



DUTY OF A NURSE in any Practice Setting

(Position Statement 15.14)

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Texas, the Board of Nursing (BON), through the Nursing Practice Act and Board Rules, emphasizes the nurse's responsibility and duty to provide safe, effective nursing care.

These Board Rules underscore the duty and responsibilities of LVNs and RNs to their clients and patients:

- Nurses should differentiate the roles of an LVN and an RN in accepting nursing care assignments, assuring a safe environment for patients, and obtaining instruction and supervision as needed (The Standards of Nursing Practice, 22 TAC §217.11).
- A nurse has a duty to the patient which cannot be superseded by hospital policy or physician's order (Lunsford v. Board of Nurse Examiners, 648 S.W. 2d 391 [Tex. App. Austin, 1983]).
- RNs should follow Board of Nursing delegation rules (22 TAC, Chapters 224 and 225) for the delegation of tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel. When performing nursing tasks, the unlicensed person can function only under the RN's delegation and supervision. The RN retains responsibility and accountability for care rendered (22 TAC, Chapters 224 and 225). Inappropriate delegation may be cause for disciplinary action.
- RNs with advanced practice licensure must additionally comply with rules specific to advanced practice nursing (22 TAC, Chapters 221 & 222), and laws applicable to the APRN's practice setting.
- Each nurse must be able to support how his or her clinical judgments and nursing actions align with the NPA and Board Rules. The Six-Step Decision-Making Model for Determining Nursing Scope of Practice can help determine if a given task is within the nurse's abilities. Meeting standards adopted by national nursing specialty organizations may also enhance and support a nurse's actions.

The Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies, Guidelines and Rules relating to good professional behavior outline the behaviors expected of nurses. These resources explain the power differential within the nurse-patient relationship, created by the nurse's power and the patient's vulnerability (22 TAC §§213.27-213.29).

Any nurse, by virtue of education and examination leading to LVN or RN licensure, is accountable to the Board to ensure that nursing care meets standards of safety and effectiveness. Therefore, it is the position of the Board that each licensed nurse upholds his or her duty to maintain client safety by practicing within the parameters of the Nursing Practice Act and Board Rules as they apply to each licensee.



To read the full position statement, visit:

www.bne.state.tx.us/practice_bon_position_statements_content.asp#15.14.