**Nursing practice decisions summary guide**

**Identify client need/benefit**
- Has there been a comprehensive assessment by a nurse to establish the client’s needs/or their need for improved access to care?
- Has there been appropriate consultation with the client/their family/significant others?
- Is the activity in the client’s best interests?

**Reflect on scope of practice and nursing practice standards**
- Is this activity within the current, contemporary scope of nursing practice?
- Have legislative requirements (e.g. specific qualification needed) been met?
- If authorisation by a regulatory authority is needed to perform the activity, does the person have it or can it be obtained before the activity is performed?
- Will performance comply with nursing practice standards /evidence?
- If other health professionals should assist, supervise or perform the activity, are they available?

**Consider context of practice/organisational support**
- Is this activity/practice supported by the organisation?
- Is organisational authorisation needed, does the person have it or can it be obtained before performing the activity?
- Is the skill mix in the organisation adequate for the level of support/supervision needed to safely perform the activity?
- Have potential risks been identified and strategies to avoid or minimise them been identified and implemented?
- Is there a system for ongoing education and maintenance of competence in place?
- If this is a new practice:
  - Are there processes in place for maintaining performance into the future?
  - Have relevant parties been involved in planning for implementation?

**Select appropriate, competent person to perform the activity**
- Have the roles and responsibilities of registered and enrolled nurses and non-nurses been considered?
- Does the person who is to perform the activity have the knowledge, skill, authority and ability (capacity) to do so either autonomously or with education, support and supervision?
- Is the required level of education, supervision/support available?
- Have all factors associated with delegation been considered?
- Is the person confident and do they understand their accountability and reporting responsibilities in performing the activity?

**YES TO ALL**
**ACTION**
Proceed to:
- perform the activity OR
- delegate to a competent person
- document the decision and the actions

**EVALUATE**

**NO TO ANY**
**ACTION**
- Consult seek advice (eg NUM, DON other health professional) OR
- Refer/collaborate OR
- Plan to enable integration/practice changes if appropriate (including developing/implementing policies, gaining qualifications as needed)

Document and evaluate and, if change still desired, commence process again

*NOTE: the order in which these issues are considered may vary according to context*