



Nursing practice decisions summary guide

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

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?
- Will performance comply with nursing practice standards /evidence?
- Have legislative requirements (e.g. specific qualification needed) been met?
- If other health professionals should assist, supervise or perform the activity, are they available?
- 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?

Consider context of practice/organisational support

- Is this activity/practice supported by the organisation?
- Is there a system for ongoing education and maintenance of competence in place?
- If organisational authorisation is needed, does the person have it or can it be obtained before performing the activity?
- 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?
- 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?

Select appropriate, competent person to perform the activity

- Have the roles and responsibilities of registered and enrolled nurses and non-nurses been considered?
- Have all factors associated with delegation 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 person confident and do they understand their accountability and reporting responsibilities in performing the activity?
- Is the required level of education, supervision/support available?

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

Yes
to all

Yes
to all

Yes
to all

Yes
to all

No
to any

No
to any

No
to any

No
to any