

Decision-making framework summary: Nursing



To be read in conjunction with the NMBA *Decision-making framework for nursing and midwifery (2020)*

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

Identify need/benefit

- Has there been a comprehensive assessment by a registered nurse to establish the person's health and cultural needs?
- Has there been appropriate consultation with, and consent by, the person receiving care?
- Is the activity in the best interests of the person receiving care?

Reflect on scope of practice and nursing practice standards

- Is this activity within the current, contemporary scope of nursing practice?
- Have Commonwealth or state/territory legislative requirements (e.g. specific qualification needed) been met?
- If authorisation by a regulatory authority is needed to perform the activity, does the registered nurse, enrolled nurse or health worker have it or can it be obtained before the activity is performed?
- Will performance comply with nursing standards for practice, codes and guidelines, as well as best available evidence?
- If other health professionals should assist, supervise or perform the activity, are they available?

Consider context of practice, governance and identification of risk

- Is this activity/practice/delegation supported by the organisation and/or by the educational institution (for students)?
- Have strategies to avoid or minimise any risk been identified and implemented?
- If organisational authorisation is needed, does the registered nurse, enrolled nurse or health worker have it or can it be obtained before performing the activity?
- Is the skill mix, model of care and staffing levels in the organisation adequate for the level of support/supervision needed to safely perform the activity/delegation?
- If this is a new practice:
 - Is there a system for ongoing education and maintenance of competence in place?
 - Have relevant parties and stakeholders been involved in planning for implementation?

Select appropriate, competent person to perform activities

[Delegation of care is made by a registered nurse]

- Have the roles and responsibilities of registered nurses, enrolled nurses and health workers been considered?
- Does the registered nurse, enrolled nurse or health worker have the necessary educational preparation, experience, capacity, competence and confidence to safely perform the activity either autonomously or with education, support and supervision?
- Are they competent and confident in performing the activity and accepting the delegation?
- Do they understand their accountability and reporting responsibilities?
- Is the required level of education, clinical supervision/support available?

Yes to all

Action

- Perform the activity, **or** delegate to a competent person who then reconfirms consent from the person receiving care, **and**
- document the decision and the actions, **and**
- regular review of the delegation providing guidance, support and clinically focused supervision, **and**
- evaluate outcome.

No to any

Action

- Reconsider decision about whether to implement practice/activity/delegation, **and**
- consult/seek advice/collaborate, **and/or**
- refer if needed to complete the action, **and**
- if appropriate, plan to enable integration/practice changes (including developing/implementing policies, gaining qualifications as needed), **and**
- document the decisions and the actions, **and**
- evaluate outcome.