



Synopsis of Differences in Scope of Practice for Licensed Vocational,  
 Associate, Diploma and Baccalaureate Degree Nurses

Nursing Practice	LVN Scope of Practice <i>Directed/Supervised Role</i>	ADN or Diploma RN Scope of Practice <i>Independent Role</i>	BSN RN Scope of Practice <i>Independent Role</i>
<b>Education</b>	<p>A program of study preparing graduates who are competent to practice safely and who are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN® examination.</p> <p>The VN curriculum includes instruction in five basic areas of nursing care: children; maternity; aged; adults; and individuals with mental health problems. Clinical experiences are required in children, maternity, aged, and adults, but is optional for psychiatric nursing.</p> <p>Instruction shall be provided in nursing roles; biological, physical, social, behavioral, and nursing sciences, including body structure and function, microbiology, pharmacology, nutrition, signs of emotional health, human growth and development, vocational nursing scope of practice, and nursing skills. Courses shall be integrated or separate.</p>	<p>A program of study that offers courses and learning experiences preparing graduates who are competent to practice nursing safely and who are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN® examination, often referred to as a pre-licensure nursing program. ADN and Diploma programs are usually presented in a format equivalent to two academic years, integrating a balance between nursing and non-nursing courses including courses in liberal arts; natural, social, and behavioral sciences; and nursing. The academic education usually consists of 60 credits with approximately half the program requirements in nursing courses.</p> <p>Nursing courses include didactic and clinical learning experiences in five content areas: medical-surgical, geriatric, maternal/child health, pediatrics, and mental health nursing.</p>	<p>A program of study that offers courses and learning experiences preparing graduates who are competent to practice nursing safely and who are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN® examination, often referred to as a pre-licensure nursing program. BSN programs are usually presented in a format equivalent to four academic years, integrating a balance between nursing and non-nursing courses including courses in liberal arts; natural, social, and behavioral sciences; and nursing. The academic education usually includes 120 credits with approximately half the program requirements in nursing courses. BSN education must also include learning activities in basic research and management/leadership, and didactic and clinical learning</p>



			<p>experiences in community health nursing.</p> <p>Nursing courses include didactic and clinical learning experiences in five content areas: medical-surgical, geriatric, maternal/child health, pediatrics, and mental health nursing.</p> <p>Instruction shall be provided in nursing roles; biological, physical, social, behavioral, and nursing sciences, including body structure and function, microbiology, pharmacology, nutrition, signs of emotional health, human growth and development, vocational nursing scope of practice, and nursing skills. Courses shall be integrated or separate.</p>
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<p><b>Supervision</b></p>	<p>Supervision is required for the LVN scope of practice. LVNs are not licensed for independent nursing practice.</p> <p>An LVN must ensure that he or she has an appropriate clinical supervisor, i.e. RN, APRN, Physician, PA, Dentist or Podiatrist. The proximity of a clinical supervisor depends on skills and competency of the LVN, patient conditions and practice setting. Direct, on-site supervision may not always be necessary depending on the LVN's skill and competence and should be determined on a case-by-case situation taking into consideration the practice setting laws. However, clinical supervisors must provide timely and readily available supervision and may have to be physically present to assist LVNs should emergent situations occur.</p>	<p>Provides supervision to other RNs, LVNs and UAPs. Supervision of LVN staff is defined as the process of directing, guiding, and influencing the outcome of an individual's performance of an activity.</p>	<p>Provides supervision to other RNs, LVNs and UAPs. Supervision of LVN staff is defined as the process of directing, guiding, and influencing the outcome of an individual's performance of an activity.</p>
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<p><b>Setting</b></p>	<p>Provides focused nursing care to individual patients with predictable health care needs under the direction of an appropriate clinical supervisor.</p> <p>The setting may include areas with well-defined policies, procedures and guidelines with assistance and support from appropriate clinical supervisors, i.e. nursing home, hospital, rehabilitation center, skilled nursing facility, clinic, or a private physician office. As competencies are demonstrated, if the LVN transitions to other settings, it is the LVN's responsibility to ensure he or she has an appropriate clinical supervisor and that the policies, procedures and guidelines for that particular setting are available to guide the LVN practice.</p>	<p>Provides independent, direct nursing care to patients and their families who may be experiencing complex health care needs that may be related to multiple conditions.</p> <p>Provides healthcare to patients with predictable and unpredictable outcomes in various settings.</p>	<p>Provides independent, direct nursing care to patients, families, populations, and communities experiencing complex health care needs that may be related to multiple conditions.</p> <p>Provides healthcare to patients with predictable and unpredictable outcomes in various settings.</p>



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<b>Assessment</b>	<p>Assists, contributes and participates in the nursing process by performing a focused assessment on individual patients to collect data and gather information. A focused assessment is an appraisal of the situation at hand for an individual patient and may be performed prior to the RN's initial and comprehensive assessment.</p> <p>The LVN reports and documents the assessment information and changes in patient conditions to an appropriate clinical supervisor.</p>	<p>Independently performs an initial or ongoing comprehensive assessment (extensive data collection). Anticipates changes in patient conditions to include emergent situations. Documents and reports information and changes in patient conditions to a health care practitioner and/or a responsible party.</p> <p>Determines the physical and mental health status, needs, and preferences of culturally diverse patients and their families.</p>	<p>Independently performs an initial or ongoing comprehensive assessment (extensive data collection). Anticipates changes in patient conditions to include emergent situations. Reports and documents information and changes in patient conditions to a health care practitioner and/or a responsible party.</p> <p>Determines the physical and mental health status, needs, and preferences of culturally diverse patients, families, populations and communities.</p>



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<b>Nursing Diagnosis/ Problem Identification/ Planning</b>	<p>Uses clinical reasoning based on established evidence-based policies, procedures and guidelines for decision-making.</p> <p>Report data to assist in the identification of problems and formulation of goals/outcomes and patient-centered plans of care in collaboration with patients, their families, and the interdisciplinary health care team.</p> <p>May assign specific daily tasks to and supervise nursing care by other LVNs or UAPs.</p>	<p>Uses clinical reasoning based on established evidence-based policies, procedures and guidelines for decision-making. Analyzes assessment data to identify problems, formulate goals and outcomes, and develops nursing plans of care for patients and their families.</p> <p>May assign tasks and activities to other nurses. May delegate tasks to UAPs.</p>	<p>Uses clinical reasoning based on established evidence-based practice outcomes and research for decision-making and comprehensive care. Synthesizes comprehensive data to identify problems, formulate goals and outcomes, and develop nursing plans of care for patients, families, populations, and communities.</p> <p>May assign tasks and activities to other nurses. May delegate tasks to UAPs.</p>



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<b>Implementation</b>	<p>Provides safe, compassionate and focused nursing care to patients with predictable health care needs.</p> <p>Implements aspects of the nursing care plan, including emergency interventions under the direction of the RN or another appropriate clinical supervisor.</p> <p>Contributes to the development and implementation of teaching plans for patients and their families with common health problems and well-defined health needs.</p>	<p>Provides safe, compassionate, comprehensive nursing care to patients, and their families through a broad array of health care services.</p> <p>Implements the plan of care for patients and their families within legal, ethical, and regulatory parameters and in consideration of disease prevention, wellness, and promotion of healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Develops and implements teaching plans to address health promotion, maintenance, and restoration.</p>	<p>Provides safe, compassionate, comprehensive nursing care to patients, families, populations, and communities through a broad array of health care services.</p> <p>Implements the plan of care for patients, families, populations, and communities within legal, ethical, and regulatory parameters and in consideration of disease prevention, wellness, and promotion of healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Develops and implements teaching plans to address health promotion, maintenance, restoration, and population risk reduction.</p>



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<b>Evaluation</b>	<p>Participates in evaluating effectiveness of nursing interventions.</p> <p>Participates in making referrals to resources to facilitate continuity of care.</p>	<p>Evaluates and reports patient outcomes and responses to therapeutic interventions in comparison to benchmarks from evidence-based practice, and plans follow-up nursing care to include referrals for continuity of care.</p>	<p>Evaluates and reports patient, family, population, and community outcomes and responses to therapeutic interventions in comparison to benchmarks from evidence-based practice and research, and plans follow-up nursing care to include referrals for continuity of care.</p>

(Adopted: 07/2011)

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