Student Name:
Date:

Comparison of RN and LVN Professional Roles and Responsibilities

Role/ Responsibility	RN	LVN
Assessment	can initiate assessment	unable to initate the inital assessment but they may contribute to the planning and implementation 217.11
Planning	The role of the RN is to synthesize comprehensive assessment data to identify problems, formulate goals/outcomes, and develop plans of care for patients, families, populations, and communities using information from evidence-based practice and published research in collaboration with these groups and the interdisciplinary health care team.	lvn can contribute to gathering data and particpate in the development and modification of th nursing plan 15.27
Implementation	RN is generally responsible and accountable for supervising not only the LVN's practice but the UAP's performance of tasks as well. For example, the RN may have trained, verified competency and delegated the tasks to a UAP and the LVN may then proceed to assign those tasks that need to be accomplished for that day. 15.28	The LVN is responsible for providing safe, compassionate and focused nursing care to assigned patients with predictable health care needs. The LVN may implement aspects of the plan of care within legal, ethical, and regulatory parameters and in consideration of patient factors.217.11 LVNs may make appropriate assignments to other LVNs and UAPs according to Rule may also implement to appropriate personel
Evaluation		The LVN may contribute to the evaluation phase by suggesting any modifications to the plan of care that may be necessary and making appropriate referrals to facilitate continuity of care.15.27
Communication		The LVN must communicate verbally, in writing, or electronically with members of the healthcare team, patients and their families on all aspects of the nursing care provided to patients. Communications must be appropriately documented in the patient record or nursing care plan. 15.27
Clinical Reasoning		LVNs are accountable and responsible for the quality of nursing care provided and must exercise prudent nursing judgment to ensure the standards of nursing practice are met at all times.15.27

Employment Setting		The LVN must determine before he or she engages in an activity or assignment whether he or she has the education, training, skill, competency, and the physical and emotional ability to safely carry out the activity or assignment. The LVN's duty is to always provide safe, compassionate, and focused nursing care to patients.15.27
Making Assignments		The LVN's duty to patient safety when making assignments to others is to take into consideration the education, training, skill, competence, and physical and emotional ability of the persons to whom the assignments are made. If the LVN makes assignments to another LVN or UAP, he or she is responsible for reasonable and prudent decisions regarding those assignments 15.27
Supervision		The supervising LVN may have to directly observe and evaluate the nursing care provided depending on the LVN's skills and competence, patient conditions and level of urgency in emergent situations. Timely and readily available communication between the supervising LVN and the clinical supervisor is essential to provide safe and effective nursing care. 15.27
Medication Administration		
Moderate Sedation		
Add any other differences that you found interesting here		