

RN and LVN Profession Roles and Responsibilities Comparison Table

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Role/Responsibility	RN	LVN	TBON Position Statement
Assessment	Comprehensive assessment, lays the foundation for the nursing process, analysis and interpretation of data.	LVN is more focus assessment.	15.27,15.28
Planning	RN synthesizes the data collected during the comprehensive assessment to identify problems, participate in the patient diagnosis and to formulate goals, teach plans and outcomes.	The role of the LVN is to report data, to assist and in the identification of problems and formulation of goals and outcomes. Patient-centered plans of care with patients families and care team.	15.27, 15.28
Implementation	RN may begin, deliver, assign or delegate certain nursing tasks within the plan of care for patients	Provide safe and compassionate and focus nursing care to assigned patients with predictable health care needs.	15.27, 15.28
Evaluation	The RN evaluates and reports patient outcomes and responses to therapeutic interventions in comparison to benchmarks from evidence based practice and research findings, and plans any following up care and referrals to appropriate resources.	LVN participates in the evaluation process by identifying and reporting any alterations in patient responses to therapeutic intervention in comparison to expected outcome.	15.27, 15.28
Communication	RN must communicate verbally in writing or electronically with members of the health care team, patient and their families in all aspect of the nursing care.	RN must communicate verbally in writing or electronically with members of the health care team, patient and their families in all aspect of the nursing care.	15.27,15.28

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Clinical Reasoning	RN's use critical thinking skills to problem solve and make clinical judgments in response to and in collaboration with patients, their families and the healthcare team.	LVN's must use clinical reasoning and establish evidence based polices and procedures or guidelines as the basis of clinic judgment in nursing practice.	15.27, 15.28
Making Assignments	Must determine before he or she engages in an activity or assignments whether he or she has the education, training, skill, competencies and the physical and emotional ability to safely carry out the activity or assignments.	The LVNs duty to patient safety when making assignments to others is to take into consideration the education, training, skills and the physical and emotional ability of the person to whom the assignments are made.	15.27, 15.28

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Supervision	<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>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.</p> <p>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>	15.27
Medication Administration	<p>The Standards of Nursing Practice (22 TAC §217.11) applicable to LVNs (as well as RNs) includes the following standards that specifically relate to medication administration:</p> <p>(1)(C) Know the rationale for and effects of medications and treatments, and shall correctly administer the same;</p> <p>(1)(D) Accurately and completely report and document: (iv) administration of medications and treatments;</p> <p>(1)(N) Clarify any order or treatment regimen that the nurse has reason to believe is inaccurate, non-efficacious or contraindicated by consulting with the appropriate licensed practitioner and notifying the ordering practitioner when the nurse makes the decision not to administer the medication or treatment.</p>	<p>The Standards of Nursing Practice (22 TAC §217.11) applicable to LVNs (as well as RNs) includes the following standards that specifically relate to medication administration:</p> <p>(1)(C) Know the rationale for and effects of medications and treatments, and shall correctly administer the same;</p> <p>(1)(D) Accurately and completely report and document: (iv) administration of medications and treatments;</p> <p>(1)(N) Clarify any order or treatment regimen that the nurse has reason to believe is inaccurate, non-efficacious or contraindicated by consulting with the appropriate licensed practitioner and notifying the ordering practitioner when the nurse makes the decision not to administer the medication or treatment.</p>	15.25

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Moderate Sedation	Though optimal anesthesia care is best provided by qualified certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) or anesthesiologists, the Board recognizes that the demand in the practice setting necessitates provision of moderate sedation by registered nurses and non-CRNA advanced practice registered nurses in certain practice situations.	The administration of pharmacologic agents via intravenous or other routes for the purpose of achieving moderate sedation requires mastery of complex nursing knowledge, advanced skills, and the ability to make independent nursing judgments during an unstable and unpredictable period for the patient. It is the opinion of the Board that the one-year vocational nursing program does not provide the Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with the educational foundation to assure patient safety for optimal anesthesia care inclusive of both the administration of pharmacologic agents intended to induce moderate sedation and/or assessment and monitoring of the patient receiving moderate (conscious) sedation.	15.8
Employment Setting	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. Provides healthcare to patients with predictable and unpredictable outcomes in various settings.	Provides focused nursing care to individual patients with predictable health care needs under the direction of an appropriate clinical supervisor. 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.	15.27, 15.28
<i>Add any other differences that you found interesting here</i>			
Education	A program of study that offers courses and	A program of study preparing graduates who are	15.10

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	<p>learning experiences preparing graduates who are competent to practice nursing safely and who are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN® examination. 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. 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>competent to practice safely and who are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN® examination. 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. 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>	