

## RN and LVN Profession Roles and Responsibilities Comparison Table

Student Name: Christina Bruce, Courtney Pagett, Chelsea Reber, Valarie Perry

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Role/Responsibility	RN	LVN	TBON Position Statement
Assessment	Independently performs an initial or ongoing comprehensive assessment.	performs a focused assessment on individual patients to collect data and gather information.	15.27-15.28
Planning	Analyzes assessment data to identify problems, formulate goals and outcomes, and develops nursing plans of care for patients and their families	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.	15.27-15.28
Implementation	<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>	Implements aspects of the nursing care plan, including emergency interventions under the direction of the RN or another appropriate clinical supervisor.	15.27-15.28
Evaluation	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	Participates in evaluating and reporting effectiveness of nursing interventions. Participates in making referrals to resources to facilitate continuity of care	15.27-15.28
Communication	Communicates, verbally, written, and electronically with other members of the health care team and families. Communication has to be documented in pt chart. If situation is out of RNs competency the RN must seek another RN with competency in the situation or a health care	Communicates, verbally, written, and electronically with other members of the health care team and families. Communication has to be documented in pt chart. If situation is out of LVNs competency or scope of practice the LVN must seek their clinical supervisor.	15.27-15.28

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	provider.		
Clinical Reasoning	RNs use critical thinking to make clinical judgements, with colaberation of other health care providers. Accountable and responsible for the quality of nursing care provided and must exercise prudent and professional nursing judgment to ensure the standards of nursing practice are met at all times.	LVNs must use clinical reasoning and established evidence-based policies, procedures, or guidelines as the basis for clinical judgment in nursing practice. Accountable and responsible for the quality of nursing care provided and must exercise prudent and professional nursing judgment to ensure the standards of nursing practice are met at all times.	15.27-15.28
Making Assignments	RN delegates tasks to UAPs and LVNs as long as it is appropriate and within thier scope of practice. It is the responsibility of the RN to supervise the tasks delegated.	Delegating tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel is out of the scope of practice for LVNs; LVNs may make appropriate assignments to other LVNs and UAPs as long as it follows the board rule	15.11

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Supervision	Provides supervision to other RNs, LVNs and UAPs.	Supervision is required for the LVN scope of practice. **LVNs are not licensed for independent nursing practice.	15.27-15.28
Medication Administration	RNs are allowed to provide medications to pts, some medications do have to have physician present.	The Board's position, is that LVNs are educationally prepared to administer medications and treatments as ordered by a physician, podiatrist, dentist, or any other practitioner legally authorized to prescribe the ordered medication. LVNs may also administer medications and treatments ordered by PAs and APRNs	15.25
Moderate Sedation	RNs are allowed to provide moderate sedation medications in certain practice situations.	LVNs are not allowed to provide medication for moderate sedation. LVNs do not possess the education needed to provide medications.	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 focused nursing care to individual patients with predictable health care needs under the direction of an appropriate clinical supervisor, such as nursing homes, home health, hospital. But the LVN must make sure they have appropriate supervision	15.27-15.28
<b><i>Add any other differences that you found interesting here</i></b>			
Education	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.	The VN curriculum includes instruction in five basic areas of nursing care: children; maternity; aged; adults; and individuals with mental health problems.	15.27-15.28
	Nursing courses include didactic and clinical learning experiences in five content areas: medical-surgical, geriatric, maternal/child health, pediatrics, and mental health nursing.	Clinical experiences are required in children, maternity, aged, and adults, but is optional for psychiatric nursing	

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