

RN and LVN Profession Roles and Responsibilities Comparison Table

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| Role/Responsibility | RN | LVN | TBON Position Statement |
|---------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| Assessment | <p>The RN uses clinical reasoning and knowledge, evidence-based outcomes, and research as the basis for decision-making and comprehensive care. Based upon the comprehensive assessment the RN determines the physical and mental health status, needs, and preferences of culturally, ethnically, and socially diverse patients and their families using evidence-based health data and a synthesis of knowledge.</p> | <p>The LVN assists in determining the physical and mental health status, needs, and preferences of culturally, ethnically, and socially diverse patients and their families based on interpretation of health-related data. The LVN collects data and information, recognizes changes in conditions and reports this to the RN supervisor or another appropriate clinical supervisor to assist in the identification of problems and formulation of goals, outcomes and patient-centered plans of care that are developed in collaboration with patients, their families, and the interdisciplinary health care team. The LVN cannot perform independent assessments as the LVN has a directed scope of practice under supervision. The LVN participates in the nursing process by appraising the individual patient's status or situation at hand. LVN reports the data to the RN and must document</p> | 15.28, 15.27 |
| Planning | <p>A nursing plan of care for patients is developed by the RN, who has the overall responsibility to coordinate nursing care for patients. Teaching plans address health promotion, maintenance, restoration, and prevention of risk factors. The RN utilizes evidence-based practice, published research, and information from patients and the interdisciplinary health care team during the planning process.</p> | <p>The role of the LVN is to 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> | 15.28, 15.27 |

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| <p>Implementation</p> | <p>Implementing the plan of care is the fourth step in the nursing process. The RN may begin, deliver, assign, or delegate certain nursing tasks within the plan of care for patients within legal, ethical, and regulatory parameters and in consideration of health restoration, disease prevention, patient independence, wellness, and promotion of healthy lifestyles. The RN's duty to patient safety when making assignments to other nurses or when delegating tasks to unlicensed staff is to consider the education, training, skill, competence, and physical and emotional abilities of those to whom the assignments or delegation is made</p> | <p>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. The LVN organizes aspects of patient care based on identified priorities. Delegating tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAPs) is beyond the scope of practice for LVNs; however, LVNs may make appropriate assignments to other LVNs and UAPs according to Board Rule 217.11(2).</p> | <p>15.28, 15.27</p> |
| <p>Evaluation</p> | <p>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 follow-up care and referrals to appropriate resources that may be needed. The evaluation phase is one of the times when the RN reassesses patient conditions and determines if interventions were effective and if any modifications to the plan of care are necessary.</p> | <p>The LVN participates in the evaluation process by identifying and reporting any alterations in patient responses to therapeutic interventions in comparison to expected outcomes. 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.</p> | <p>15.28 15.27</p> |
| <p>Communication</p> | <p>The RN must communicate verbally, in writing, or electronically with members of the healthcare team, patients and their families in all aspects of the nursing care provided to patients. These communications must be appropriately documented in the patient record or nursing care plan. Because RNs plan, coordinate, initiate and implement a multidisciplinary team's approach to</p> | <p>Communication is a fundamental component in the nursing process. 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. Because LVNs are</p> | <p>15.28, 15.27</p> |

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| | patient care, collaboration is crucial to the communication process | members of the healthcare team, provide nursing care, and contribute to the nursing process, collaboration is important to the communication process | |
| Clinical Reasoning | RNs 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. RNs are 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. | Clinical reasoning is another integral component in the nursing process. LVNs must use clinical reasoning and established evidence-based policies, procedures, or guidelines as the basis for clinical judgment in nursing practice. 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, 15.28 |
| Making Assignments | The RN 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 RN's duty is to always provide safe, compassionate, and comprehensive nursing care to patients. | 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. LVN scope of practice and makes an assignment that is not prudent or safe. The LVN must determine before he or she engages in an activity or assignment | 15.27, 15.28 |

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| Supervision | | The LVN scope of practice is a directed scope of practice and requires appropriate supervision of a registered nurse , advanced practice registered nurse , the license supervisor are responsible for directing, guiding, and influencing the outcome of the LVN and performance of an activity | 15.8 |
| Medication Administration | RNs are able to give all medications | LVNs can give PO, SQ, IM meds. But not Chemo meds. Depending on facility policies | |
| Moderate Sedation | Moderate sedation requires mastery of complex nursing knowledge, advanced skills, the ability to make nursing judgment during an unstable and unpredictable period for the patient. The RN can administer all medications with the right educations. | Moderate sedation requires mastery of complex nursing knowledge, advanced skills, the ability to make nursing judgment during an unstable and unpredictable period for the patient. LVN program does not provide the LVN with the education to assure patient safety | 15.8 |
| Employment Setting | Caution must be exercised not to overstep the legal parameters of nursing practice when an employer may not understand the limits of the RN scope of practice and makes an assignment that is not safe. The RN 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 RN's duty is to always provide safe, compassionate, and comprehensive nursing care to patients. | 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. | 15.8 |
| <i>Add any other differences that you found interesting here</i> | | | |
| Education | 2 years with clinical rotations | 1 year with clinical with clinical rotations | 15.4 |

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