RN and LVN Profession Roles and Responsibilities Comparison Table

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Role/Responsibility	RN	LVN	TBON Position Statement
Assessment	The RN performs the initial assessment, which will determine the physical and mental status, needs and preferences of culturally, ethnically, and spiritually diverse patients and their families	The LVN can not perform independent assessments as the LVN has a directed scope of practice under supervision	15.28 15.27
Planning	The RN synthesizes the data collected during comprehensive assessment to identify problems, participate in patient diagnoses, and formulate goals, teaching plans and outcomes	The Role of the LVN is to report data to assist in the identification of problems and formulation goals/outcomes and patient centered plans of care in collaboration with patients, their families and the interdisciplinary healthcare team	15.28 15.27
Implementation	The RN may begin, deliver, assign or delegate certain nursing tasks within the plan of care for patients within legal ethical and regulatory parameters. RN may determine when it is appropriate to delegate tasks to unlicensed personnel and maintains accountability for how unlicensed personnel perform tasks	The LVN may implement aspects of the plan of care within legal ethical and regulatory parameters and in consideration of patient factors	15.28 15.27
Evaluation	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 sources that may be needed.	The LVN participates in the evaluation process by identifying and reporting any alterations in ~~the~~ patient responses to therapeutic interventions in comparison to expected outcomes.	15.28 15.27

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Communication	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. Communications must be appropriately documented in pt's record or nursing care plan.	When patient's conditions or situations have changed or exceed the LVN's level of competency and scope of practice the LVN must be prepared to seek out his or her clinical supervisor and actively communicate and collaborate to develope solutions that ensure pt safety.	15.28 15.27
Clinical Reasoning	RNs are accountable and responsible for the quality of nursing care provided and must exercise prudent & professional nursing judgement to ensure the standards of nursing practice are met at all times	LVNs are accountable and responsible for quality of nursing care provided and must exercise prudent nursing judgement to ensure the standards of nursing practice are met at all times.	15.28 15.27
Making Assignments	The RN supervises LVNs and may supervise other RNs. RN may have to directly observe and evaluate nursing care provided depending on LVN's skills and competence. RN is responsible for supervising unlicensed personnel.	If the LVN makes assignments to another LVN or UAP, he or she is responsible for reasonable and prudent decisions regarding those assignments. It is not appropriate and is beyond the scope of practice for an LVN to supervise the nursing practice of an RN.	15.28 15.27

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Supervision	RN may supervise other RNs. RNs may supervise LVNs. RNs responsible for supervising unlicensed ~~personnel~~ personnel.	Requires appropriate supervision by an RN, APRN, Physician, Physician Assistant, Podiatrist, Dentist.	15.28 / 15.27
Medication Administration	RNs are not allowed to ~~administered~~ administer Deep sedation. Moderate sedation is allowed for patients that intubated and mechanically ventilated in a critical setting	The ability of an LVN to administer specific IV fluids or drugs ito prepare and/or administer IVPB or IV push medications or to titrate "IV drip" medications of any kind is up to facility protocol	15.25 15.3 15.8
Moderate Sedation	RNs can administer moderate sedation to patients that are intubated and mechanically ~~intubated~~ ventilated in critical care settings.	LVN's can not administer Moderate sedation	15.8
Employment Setting	RNs must assure that any job they are hired for is safe and legal. RN must determine before they engage in an activity or assignment whether they have the education, training, skill, competency and physical and emotional ability to safely carry out the activity or assignment.	LVN must have a clinical supervisor who is knowledgable and aware of his or her Role	15.28 15.27