

Role Transition: A Personal Perspective

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The concept for role transition is the change and shift in behaviors, changes in critical thinking and clinical judgement and also understanding the changes in responsibilities. With transitioning roles there are many similarities that are accompanied with vast majority of differences in the amount of independence granted, performable skills and also preciseness with details within assessments and charting. I will be discussing my personal goals and motivations to continue my pursue of education within my nursing career as well as the similarities and differences of becoming a RN from a LPN.

Section One: Motivation and Goals

I have many reasons for motivation to come back to school to further my education and become a Registers Nurse. One of the main reasons is I feel hindered only being an LPN, I have many parts of patient care that I am not allowed to do until I have my RN license. I especially dislike when a patient is in pain and they do not have oral medication so I have to report to their RN to administer the intravenous pain medication and they have wait in pain. I want to be able to work in the critical care unit but as a LPN I am unable to do so due to the inability to titrate drips, push IV medication, administer certain IV products such as blood for transfusions and chemotherapy.

I want to be able to meet the patient's need in a quick and timely manner to keep them happy and comfortable while they are with me in the hospital setting and for certain scenario's I am unable to do so as an LPN. The second reason for continuing my education is the vast opportunity of jobs and the different fields I could specialize in. certain hospital's will require you to have your RN before they will consider proceeding with the hiring process. Bigger

hospitals such as Atrium Health in Charlotte North Carolina is a example but I would like to get into a bigger area hospital due to the vast majority of different conditions seen in patient's.

As of right now the majority of things I see is patients come in for is the Flu, Covid, COPD exacerbation, fall or fracture and the occasional stroke rule out. I'm not bored with any patients that I provide care to, but I eventually want to be exposed and introduced to more patients and a higher acuity of care needed so I am more familiar and comfortable when exposed to these situations. One of my major goals is I want to eventually become a Doctor of Nursing Practice and work in either cardiology or the critical care unit of a hospital. A more reasonable goal for right now is to finish school and get my Registered Nurse license and then get my Bachelor's Degree in Science and Nursing and continue to work beside for a few years before I decide to return back to school.

Section Two: LPN and RN Practice Comparison

LPN's and RN's can both perform head to toe assessments on their patients as well as vital signs to obtain a baseline for the patient while in their care. LPN's and RN's can both perform wound care of patients and continue out the plan of care ordered by the physician and wound consult, as well as standing orders for wound care per facility policy. They can both perform IV insertion as well as the administration of IV antibiotics and maintenance fluids. LPN's and RN's can both use critical thinking skills and clinical judgement when assessing a patient and determining if the physician needs to be contacted and notified of their current state. Both can delegate tasks to other, LPN can specifically delegate tasks to other qualified LPN and certain tasks to aids that have demonstrated competency in the task being asked. We are both allowed to place and maintain foley catheters, monitor and maintain continuous bladder irrigation and discontinue foley catheters. With professional and peer relationships they can grow

due to better understand of your job as well as potentially similar clinical judgement and critical thinking skills developed, others can be unintendedly distanced on a knowledge level due to further knowledge within profession developed from education causing some to feel unintelligent with conversations due to lack of knowledge.(Ko, *LPN vs. RN Differences* 2023) (Ohio Board of Nursing, 2019)

Section Three: Two Specific Role Changes

One of the major differences for Registered Nurses and LPN's is the amount of independence they have in practice an also the ability to delegate tasks to LPN's as well as the aids. Rn's are responsible for the admission assessment of the patient when they are admitted to the floor an also the completion of the patient's medical history and the medication list. LPN can partially help with the admission process by getting an accurate history of the patient's medication list as well as their general medical history. LPN's are allowed to assist with the placement of an IV but have the restriction of only being able to work below the Antecubital Fossa (AC). As an RN they are allowed to work above the AC for ultra sound guided IV placement but only if we have taken the class to do so which you first have to obtain you RN license. (Claywell, 2022)

LPN's are allowed to access IV as long as they are peripheral and can only flush with saline and administer infusions of medication that they are permitted to administer, LPN are unable to do certain infusion such as blood and TPN. Rn's are able to access central lines to administer various medications and to also draw blood for lab work, if there are any complication with the patients mid or central line such as an obstruction Rn's can use Cathflo to attempt to reestablish patency. During a code blue an RN's main job if ALS certified is to

administer IV medication while others such as Aids, LPN's and additional RN's perform compressions. While I have been an LPN I have paid great attention to what the RN's are doing when it comes to IV push medication, Blood transfusions, Ultra sound guides IV placement, Code situations and also . I have asked many questions to limit any confusion when I am legally allowed to perform the same job responsibilities as them. (Goodwin University, 2023)

Conclusion

In conclusion there are many similarities between the role of Registered Nurses and Licensed Practicing Nurses allowing the transition to be less overwhelming, but have many differences as well making the transition take time to become comfortable. Becoming a RN provides you with many more job opportunities to provide more patient interaction, more chances to provide care to a variety of patients an also a plethora of specialties within the nursing career. Furthering my education is one of the best decisions I have made and have continued pursuing and I plan to continue pursing higher education not because of pay but because the vast career opportunities that will be available and the want of more knowledge and understanding.

References

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