

Unit 1: Delegation
Z-Chapter 14
ONLINE CONTENT (1 H)

Unit Objectives:

- Discuss personal accountability when delegating. (5,7)*
- Explain and apply the five rights of delegation in nursing practice. (3,5,6,7)*

*Course Objectives

Review Chapter 14 in your textbook and read the “National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation” document. Place your answers to the questions below in the Z-Chapter 14 dropbox by 0800 on 1/13/2025.

1. State **each** example provided of when the National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation may be applied?

Some examples of when the National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation may be applied when APRNs are delegating to RNs, LPN/VNs and assistive personnel (AP), RNs when delegating to LPN/VNs and AP, and LPN/VNs (as allowed by their state/jurisdiction) when delegating to AP. A few tasks that can be delegated are vital signs on stable patients, bathing and personal hygiene, helping the patient to the bathroom, blood sugar, and feeding patients.

2. When do the National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation **not** apply?

The APRN, RN, or LPN/VN should not delegate tasks to NPAs for unstable patients. The patient needs to be stable. The task should not be outside of the NPAs scope of practice, or it is not able to be done.

3. In your own words, respond to the following:

- a. Define delegation.

APRN, RN or LPN/VN can assign NPAs tasks that are within their scope of practice to be performed with patients.

- b. Explain how delegation differs from assignment.

Delegation is when a NPA is assigned a nursing responsibility and assignment is the tasks the NPA is responsible for.

- c. Does either delegation or assignment require supervision? If so, by whom?

The nurse should follow up to ensure the delegation or assignment is completed and the patient is safe and taken care of. The nurse leader and the administrators are also responsible for ensuring the delegated task is completed properly.

4. Discuss the responsibilities of the delegator (licensed nurse) and the delegatee as they relate to delegation. (**HINT**: both the delegator and delegatee have several responsibilities).

A delegatee is allowed to perform a specific nursing activity. The delegatee must have obtained additional education and training, and validated competence to perform the care/delegated responsibility. The delegatee bears the responsibility for the delegated activity, skill or procedure. The licensed nurse who delegates the “responsibility” maintains overall accountability for the patient. The licensed nurse cannot delegate nursing judgment or any activity that will involve nursing judgment or critical decision making. Nursing responsibilities are delegated by someone who has the authority to delegate.

5. List **and** define (in your own words) the five rights of delegation.

The right task is to ensure the task is within the delegates scope of practice and follows the hospital policy. The right circumstance is ensuring the patient is healthy and stable before delegating any tasks. The right person is ensuring the person the task is being delegated to is certified and appropriate to complete the task. Right directions and communications is the RN or whoever is delegating a task is communicating all the necessary information that is needed to ensure the safety of the patient and the delegatee should ask any questions they may have pertaining to the task. The right supervision and evaluation is the RN or person delegating a task should follow up and ensure the task has been completed properly. The delegatee should ensure they communicate that the task was completed and if there is any important information that should be communicated.

In order to receive full credit (1 H class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by the due date/time assigned. Any assignments not completed in its entirety by the due date and time will result in missed class time and must be completed by the end of the semester to pass the course.