

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 1/12/2026.

1. State **each** example provided of when the National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation may be applied?
 - Discrete tasks or data retrieval based on patient condition and planned outcome
 - tasks that the delegate is competent to do and is allowed to do according to your state regulations and organizational job descriptions and skills checklists
 - tasks that the competent delegate has also agreed to do and understands preferred outcome, parameters, and how and when to report to the delegating RN

2. When do the National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation **not** apply?
 - In depth assessments that identify needs and problems and diagnose human responses
 - Any aspect of planning, including the development of comprehensive approaches to the total care plan (this does not preclude other team members from collaborating and offering information)
 - Any provision of health counseling, teaching, or referrals to other healthcare providers
 - Therapeutic nursing techniques and comprehensive care planning

3. In your own words, respond to the following:
 - a. Define delegation.

The process for a nurse to direct another person to perform nursing tasks and activities.

 - b. Explain how delegation differs from assignment.

Delegation transfers authority while assignment distributes work within an existing scope of practice.

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

Delegation requires supervision of the RN because the RN transfers authority to perform a task and remains accountable for the outcome. Assignment does not require direct supervision, since tasks are given within the individuals existing scope of practice, even though the RN has responsibility for the patients care.

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).

The licensed nurse is responsible for assessing the patient and the situation, determining whether delegation is appropriate, selecting a competent delegate, providing clear instructions, supervising the task, and evaluating the outcome. The delegatee is responsible for accepting tasks within their scope and competency, performing the task correctly and safely, following instructions, and reporting results or any concerns to the delegator.

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

The right task- The task Is appropriate to delegate and does not require nursing judgment.

Under the right circumstances- The patient's condition and setting are stable and suitable for delegation.

To the right person- the task is delegated to someone who is trained, competent, and legally allowed to perform it.

With the right directions and communication- clear and specific instructions are given including what to do, how to do it, and when to report back.

Under the right supervision and evaluation- the nurse monitors the task, provides guidance as needed, and evaluates the outcome.

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.

