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?
   - Delegation of tasks to the UAP can be done in all healthcare settings, when routine nursing tasks are required, when patients are stable, when the task does not require nursing judgement, when the proper supervision and evaluation is done by the RN, and when the task follows the hospital policy.
2. When do the National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation **not** apply?
   - When care is delegated to another licensed nurse, when tasks require the use of nursing judgment, during emergencies/ unstable patient situations, non-delegable duties.
3. In your own words, respond to the following:
   a. Define delegation.
   - Delegation is where the nurse asks another person to do a task or activity. Sometimes it is a task that the person does not typically do.
   b. Explain how delegation differs from assignment.
   - An assignment is what the nurse or the other person are expected to do in their role. Delegation is someone asking another to do a task.
   c. Does either delegation or assignment require supervision? If so, by whom?
   - Delegation requires supervision of the RN to ensure the task has been completed and the right communication has taken place.

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).
   - For the RN the responsibilities include: assessing the patients needs, determining when and what to delegate, planning the desired outcome, communicate with the delegatee the patient's condition and the specific tasks instructions, the RN must be available to the person for guidance and questions about the task, assisting as needed depending on the patients condition, the RN must follow up with the delegatee after

the task has been completed, and the RN must also communicate to the nurse leader if there were any issues with the delegatee/ their judgment and decision making.

- For the delegatee the responsibilities include: must only accept the responsibilities that they can appropriately and safely do, accept tasks within their scope of practice, if they feel uncomfortable or have any clarifying questions they must as them, they also must be competent in the procedure they will be performing, they must communicate with the nurse appropriately, they must also after accepting responsibility for a task perform it and do so in a timely and safe manner, after which proper documentation must be done as well.

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

- The 5 rights of delegation are right task, right circumstance, right person, right directions and communication, and right supervision and evaluation. Right task is what the RN understands to be a safe task that is included in that person's job description/ daily tasks. Right circumstance determines that the delegate is responsible for communicating changes in the patient's condition/ will be assisting in the care of stable patients. The RN must then reassess the patient and task delegation following the information that was received from the person. Right person refers to the delegatee has the knowledge and skill to do the task assigned to them (that is also included in their scope of practice/ hospital policy). Right directions and communication is where there is appropriate communication from the nurse to the person on the task itself, from directions and questions to clarify. As well as communication after the task is performed, such as taking vital signs and letting the nurse know of any abnormal values, changes to the patient, or any questions the patient may have asked. The person should also agree to the task being delegated and understand to follow instructions and not deviate from the plan in place without communicating. Right supervision and evaluation is where the nurse must follow up to ensure the task was completed and done properly, and or documented appropriately. Such as vital signs being charted with a high or low abnormal that was not reported. As well as visualize the patient and their room to ensure the patient has the appropriate precautions in place, such as a bed alarm, proper transferring methods to and from the restroom, and that the patient is in their room appropriately.

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.