

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?
These guidelines may be applied when APRNS are delegating to RNs, LPNS/VNs, APs. When RNS are delegating to LPN/VNs and APs and when LPN/VNs are delegating to APs are also an example of when these guidelines can be applied.
2. When do the National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation **not** apply?
They do not apply when there is a transfer of care of a patient between licensed health care providers (RNs to RNs or LPNs to LPNs).
3. In your own words, respond to the following:
 - a. Define delegation.
Delegation is the process in which a delegatee is allowed to preform a skill that typically is not a routine skill for the delegatee but is typically a nursing activity.
 - b. Explain how delegation differs from assignment.
Assignment is performing a usual task in a scope of practice, and delegation is the practice of a skill that is not typically found within this role’s skillset, ordered by a nursing professional.
 - c. Does either delegation or assignment require supervision? If so, by whom?
Delegation requires supervision in the sense that an RN is keeping tabs, relaying communication, evaluating the task and patient outcomes. They may perform the delegated skill independently, but the RN should follow up and check in.
Assignment typically does not need constant supervision, as these are tasks within the personnel’s scope of practice. However, a supervisor should be assessing client outcomes based on care provided.
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 nurse delegator has many responsibilities. They are responsible for determining what to delegate based on the setting, communicating with the delegatee on who will be assisting with providing patient care, being present for guidance and questions asked by the delegatee, following up with the delegatee, and providing feedback to the delegatee based on their performance and client outcomes related to the task they performed. Delegatee's responsibilities include accepting delegated tasks that are within their trained abilities, maintaining competency for the delegated responsibility, communicating the patient status with the nurse, and completing the task and documentation correctly and within the proper time span.

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

Right task: This is the right that the task being delegated is the correct and a safe task to delegate, in which the RN has chosen an appropriate delegated task for the delegatee to carry out.

Right circumstance: If there is a status change or health change of the patient, this must be communicated by the delegatee to the RN so the situation and tasks delegated can be reassessed.

Right person: This involves the RN knowing that the person they chose to delegate the task to is able to, and it also competent in the skill they will be performing.

Right directions: Correct instructions by the RN to the delegatee and in return if the delegatee has any concerns or questions, they bring it up with the RN for discussing until everything is clear and sorted.

Right supervision and evaluation: The RN must monitor the task, follow up with the delegatee and evaluate patient outcomes and to make sure the skill was carried out correctly. The RN should be prepared to intervene at any time, and the delegatee should keep communication open with the RN during this process.

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.