

1 Below is a portion of the Alabama Board Of Nursing Standards of Practice. To see in its entirety please see the ABN web site.



**610-X-6-.02 Conduct and Accountability.** The registered nurse and licensed practical nurse shall:

Have knowledge and understanding of the laws and rules regulating nursing.  
Function within the legal scope of nursing practice.

(3) Be responsible and accountable for the quality of nursing care delivered to patients based on and limited to scope of education, demonstrated competence, and nursing experience.

Be responsible and accountable for the quality of nursing care delivered to patients by nursing personnel under the individual nurse's supervision.

Obtain instruction and supervision as necessary when implementing new or unfamiliar nursing techniques or practices.

(6) Accept individual responsibility and accountability for judgments, actions and nursing competency.

Collaborate with other members of the health care team.

Practice without discrimination on the basis of age, race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, patient diagnosis or disability.

Respect the dignity and rights of patients and their significant others including, but not limited to:

Privacy;

Protection of confidential information, unless disclosure is required by law;

Freedom from exploitation of physical, mental, sexual, or financial boundaries; and

Protection of real and personal property.

Accept individual responsibility and accountability for timely reporting of illegal, substandard, unethical, unsafe, or incompetent nursing practice directly to the Board of Nursing.

### **610-X-6-.03 Practice of Professional Nursing**

The practice of professional nursing includes, but is not limited to:

Care and counseling of patients;

Provision of care supportive to or restorative of life and well-being;

Exercise of appropriate nursing judgment;

Promotion of health and prevention of illness and injury;

(e) Executing medical regimens including administering medications and treatments prescribed by a licensed or otherwise legally authorized prescriber.

Competence in the practice of nursing by a registered nurse shall include, but is not limited to:

Knowledge and compliance with:

Applicable statutes and regulations;

Standards of nursing practice; and

Standardized procedures for nursing practice.

Maintenance of knowledge and skills in the area of practice.

Assumption of responsibility for recognizing personal limits of knowledge and experience.

Resolution of situations beyond the expertise of the registered nurse by consulting with or referring patients to other healthcare providers.

(e) Delegation of selected nursing functions to others in accordance with the education and demonstrated competence of the persons. Tasks delegated to unlicensed assistive personnel shall not require the exercise of independent nursing judgment or intervention. Selected nursing functions that may not be delegated include but are not limited to performance of invasive or sterile procedures or administration of medications except as provided in Rule 610-X-6-.06, -.07.

The scope of an individual registered nurse's level of practice includes but is not limited to:

- (a) Educational preparation, initial and continued;
- (b) License status, including Board approval for advanced practice nursing;
- (c) State and federal statutes, and regulations;
- (d) State and national standards appropriate to the type of practice;

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- (e) Nursing experience;
- (f) Demonstrated competence; and
- (g) Knowledge, skills, and ability to manage risks and potential complications.

**610-X-6-.04 Practice of Practical Nursing**

The practice of practical nursing includes, but is not limited to:

Acts designed to promote and maintain health;

Prevention of illness and injury;

Provision of care using standardized procedures including administering medications and treatments under the direction of a licensed professional nurse or a licensed or otherwise legally authorized prescriber; and

(d) Exercise of appropriate nursing judgment.

Competence in the practice of practical nursing by a licensed practical nurse shall include, but is not limited to:

Knowledge and compliance with:

Applicable statutes and regulations;

Standards for nursing practice; and

Standardized procedures for nursing practice.

Maintenance of knowledge and skills in the area of practice.

Assumption of responsibility for recognizing limits of personal knowledge and experience.

Resolution of situations beyond the expertise of the licensed practical nurse by consulting with or referring patients to other healthcare providers.

(e) Delegation of selected nursing functions to others in accordance with the education and demonstrated competence of the persons. Tasks delegated to unlicensed assistive personnel shall not require the exercise of independent nursing judgment or intervention. Selected nursing functions that may not be delegated include but are not limited to performance of invasive or sterile procedures or administration of medications except as provided in Rule 610-X-6-.06, -.07. (3) The scope of an individual licensed practical nurse's level of practice includes, but is not limited to:

Educational preparation, initial and continued;

License status;

State and federal statutes, and regulations

(d) State and national standards appropriate to the type of practice;

(e) Nursing experience;

(f) Demonstrated competence; and

(g) Knowledge, skills, and ability to manage risks and potential complications.

**Author:** Alabama Board of Nursing.

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Alabama, 1975, §§ 34-21-1(3)(b), 34-21-2(a)(21), 34-21-2(c)(6).

**History:** September 29, 1982. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed October 29, 2001. Effective December 3, 2001.

**. 610-X-6-.05 Standardized Procedures**

For purposes of Chapter 610-X-6, a hospital is defined as a facility described in **Ala. Code 1975 §22-21-20(1)**, other than a health maintenance organization, which has an organized medical staff or which employs the services of a medical director who is a physician licensed to practice medicine in Alabama. The term hospital, for purposes of Chapter 610-X-6, shall not include the private offices of physicians or dentists, whether in individual, group, professional corporation or professional association practice.

For purposes of Chapter 610-X-6, a standardized procedure is a written policy or protocol establishing the permissible functions, activities, and level of supervision of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses within a licensed hospital setting that is beyond basic nursing education preparation. Standardized procedure(s) require(s) approval by the chief nursing administrator, chief medical officer, and chief executive officer as evidenced by each signature on the written policy(ies) and protocol(s).

The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse may perform standardized procedures beyond basic educational preparation in licensed hospitals as defined in Rule 610-X-6-.05, if the following requirements are met:

Completion of an organized program of study;

Supervised clinical practice;

Demonstrated competence; and

Submission of the standardized procedure to the Board prior to implementation.

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Use of standardized procedures in providing patient care in licensed hospitals as defined in Rule 610-X-6-.05 requires written policies and protocols. The written policies and protocols shall:

Be developed through collaboration among the chiefs of nursing, medicine, and administration.

Include planned periodic intervals of clinical competence evaluation.

The RN or LPN shall not administer medications for anesthetic purposes or to render an individual unconscious without meeting the requirements of Chapter 610-X-9-.02.

Administration of medications by routes beyond basic educational preparation, including but not limited to intrathecal, intracavitary, intraosseus, require a standardized procedure.

Practice beyond educational preparation in settings other than licensed hospitals require approval by the Board prior to implementation, in a format specified by the Board.

Any RN or LPN providing patient care in a licensed hospital shall comply with the standardized procedure(s) of that hospital.

Board action on a proposed standardized procedure may include, but is not limited to:

Approval;

Approval as a pilot project for a period of time not to exceed twelve months with reports to the Board at intervals specified by the Board; or

Denial of the request.

(10) The Board may decline to consider a proposed standardized procedure if the subject of the proposed standardized procedure is the same or similar to the proposed standardized procedure presented in another request that has been considered by the Board within the previous twelve months.

(11) The chief nurse of a licensed hospital that uses standardized procedures shall submit an annual report to the Board in a format specified by the Board.

**Author:** Alabama Board of Nursing.

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Alabama, 1975, §§ 34-21-1(3)(a), 34-21-1(3)(b), 34-21-2(c)(21).

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