

RCW 18.88A.030 Scope of practice—Nursing home employment—

Voluntary certification—Rules. (1) (a) A nursing assistant may assist in the care of individuals as delegated by and under the direction and supervision of a licensed (registered) nurse or licensed practical nurse.

(b) A health care facility shall not assign a nursing assistant-registered to provide care until the nursing assistant-registered has demonstrated skills necessary to perform competently all assigned duties and responsibilities.

(c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to confer on a nursing assistant the authority to administer medication unless delegated as a specific nursing task pursuant to this chapter or to practice as a licensed (registered) nurse or licensed practical nurse as defined in chapter 18.79 RCW.

(2) (a) A nursing assistant employed in a nursing home must have successfully obtained certification through: (i) An approved training program and the competency evaluation within a period of time determined in rule by the *commission; or (ii) alternative training and the competency evaluation prior to employment.

(b) Certification is voluntary for nursing assistants working in health care facilities other than nursing homes unless otherwise required by state or federal law or regulation.

(3) The *commission may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this chapter. [2021 c 203 s 16; 2010 c 169 s 4; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 s 52; 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 709; 1991 c 16 s 3; 1989 c 300 s 5; 1988 c 267 s 3. Formerly RCW 18.52B.030.]

***Reviser's note:** The reference to "nursing care quality assurance commission" was changed to "board of nursing" by 2023 c 123.

Effective date—Retroactive application—2021 c 203: See notes following RCW 43.43.832.

Conflict with federal requirements—2010 c 169: See note following RCW 18.88A.010.

Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 18: See notes following RCW 74.39A.030.

Severability—Headings and captions not law—Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 9: See RCW 18.79.900 through 18.79.902.