

WSR 21-19-092

EMERGENCY RULES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission)

[Filed September 17, 2021, 7:05 a.m., effective September 17, 2021, 7:05 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: WAC 246-840-010, 246-840-365, 246-840-367, 246-840-533, 246-840-840, and 246-840-930. Licensed practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN), and advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) specific credential and license requirements. The nursing care quality assurance commission (commission) is continuing the adoption of emergency rules in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This is the sixth emergency rule for these amendments and differs from the emergency rule that was filed on May 20, 2021, under WSR 21-12-012. This emergency rule does not include WAC 246-840-125 Retired active credential. Continuing competency rules, effective June 12, 2021, reduced the required education hours and replace [replaced] the emergency provisions in WAC 246-840-125. This emergency rule does not include WAC 246-840-534 Use of simulation for clinical experiences in LPN, RN, or RN to BSN nursing education programs located in Washington state. In-person training for clinical experience provides the desired academic model to assure patient safety and is required in the original rule language. This emergency rule does add clarifying language to WAC 246-840-533 regarding documentation in the nurse technician student's file explaining the reason employment is substituted for traditional clinical experiences. Changes to WAC 246-840-010 were approved by the commission on March 3, 2021, for inclusion in a CR-102. Changes to WAC 246-840-365, 246-840-367, 246-840-533 and 246-840-930 were approved by the commission on May 14, 2021, for inclusion in a CR-101.

This emergency rule retains the amendments adopted as WSR 20-10-014, 20-14-065, 20-22-024, 21-04-005, and 21-12-012 with the exceptions stated above. The rules in chapter 246-840 WAC are the licensing requirements for LPNs, RNs, and ARNPs. The emergency rules amend training program options, delegation requirements, and remove additional continuing education hours for specific ARNP credentials. Additionally, the rules waive the requirements for an ARNP to submit evidence of completing continuing education in order to return to active status when holding an inactive license, or when returning to active status from expired status.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 246-840-010, 246-840-365, 246-840-367, 246-840-533, 246-840-840, and 246-840-930.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 18.79.010, 18.79.050, 18.79.110, and 18.79.340.

Other Authority: None.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The immediate amendment of these rules is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, and general welfare. Essential functions including increasing and maintaining the availability of health care professionals must continue while tak-

ing necessary measures to help treat and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The amendments remove specific barriers that nurses face to providing care in response to COVID-19. Waiving the restriction that ARNPs with an inactive or expired license must complete clinical practice hours and the newly amended continuing education requirements removes barriers to rejoining the health care workforce. Allowing LPN students to practice as nursing technicians addresses the demand for more health care professionals in the workforce. More health care professionals will be available to continue responding to current demands because of these changes. Observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to protecting immediate public interests.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 6, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 6, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: September 16, 2021.

Paula R. Meyer, MSN, RN, FRE

Executive Director

Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission

OTS-2213.5

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-08-042, filed 3/30/16, effective 4/30/16)

WAC 246-840-010 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Advanced clinical practice" means practicing at an advanced level of nursing in a clinical setting performing direct patient care.

(2) "Advanced nursing practice" means the delivery of nursing care at an advanced level of independent nursing practice that maximizes the use of graduate educational preparation, and in-depth nursing knowledge and expertise in such roles as autonomous clinical practitioner, professional and clinical leader, expert practitioner, and researcher.

(3) "Advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP)" is a registered nurse (RN) as defined in RCW 18.79.050, 18.79.240, 18.79.250, and 18.79.400 who has obtained formal graduate education and national specialty certification through a commission approved certifying body in one or more of the designations described in WAC 246-840-302, and

who is licensed as an ARNP as described in WAC 246-840-300. The designations include the following:

- (a) Nurse practitioner (NP);
- (b) Certified nurse midwife (CNM);
- (c) Certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA); and
- (d) Clinical nurse specialist (CNS).

(4) "Associate degree registered nursing education program" means a nursing education program which, upon successful completion of course work, that includes general education and core nursing courses that provide a sound theoretical base combining clinical experiences with theory, nursing principles, critical thinking, and interactive skills, awards an associate degree in nursing (ADN) to prepare its graduates for initial licensure and entry level practice as an RN.

(5) "Bachelor of science degree registered nursing education program" means a nursing education program which, upon successful completion of course work taught in an associate degree nursing education program, as defined in subsection (28) of this section, plus additional courses physical and social sciences, nursing research, public and community health, nursing management, care coordination, and the humanities, awards a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree, to prepare its graduates for a broader scope of practice, enhances professional development, and provides the nurse with an understanding of the cultural, political, economic, and social issues that affect patients and influence health care delivery.

(6) "Certifying body" means a nongovernmental agency using predetermined standards of nursing practice to validate an individual nurse's qualifications, knowledge, and practice in a defined functional or clinical area of nursing.

(7) "Client advocate" means a licensed nurse who actively supports client's rights and choices, including the client's right to receive safe, high quality care, and who facilitates the client's ability to exercise those rights and choices by providing the client with adequate information about their care and options.

(8) "Commission" means the Washington state nursing care quality assurance commission.

(9) "Competency" means demonstrated knowledge, skill and ability in the practice of nursing.

(10) "Conditional approval" is the approval given a nursing education program that has not met the requirements of the law and the rules of the commission. Conditions are specified that must be met within a designated time to rectify the deficiency.

(11) "Dedicated education unit" means a clinical learning experience within a health care facility, as part of the curriculum of a nursing education program.

(12) "Delegation" means the licensed nurse transfers the performance of selected nursing tasks to competent individuals in selected situations. The nurse delegating the task is responsible and accountable for the nursing care of the client. The nurse delegating the task supervises the performance of the unlicensed person. Nurses must follow the delegation process following the RCW 18.79.260. Delegation in community and in-home care settings is defined by WAC 246-840-910 through 246-840-970.

(13) "Distance education" or "distance learning" means instruction offered by any means where the student and faculty are in separate physical locations. Teaching methods may be synchronous, where the teacher and student communicate at the same time, or asynchronous, where the student and teacher communicate at different times, and

shall facilitate and evaluate learning in compliance with nursing education rules.

(14) "Full approval" of a nursing education program is the approval signifying that a nursing program meets the requirements of the law and the rules of the commission.

(15) "Good cause" as used in WAC 246-840-860 for extension of a nurse technician registration means that the nurse technician has had undue hardship such as difficulty scheduling the examination through no fault of their own; receipt of the examination results after thirty days after the nurse technician's date of graduation; or an unexpected family crisis which caused him or her to delay sitting for the examination. Failure of the examination is not "good cause."

(16) "Good standing" as applied to a nursing technician, means the nursing technician is enrolled in a registered nursing program or licensed practical nursing program approved by the commission and is successfully meeting all program requirements.

(17) "Health care professional" means the same as "health care provider" as defined in RCW 70.02.010(18).

(18) "Home state" is defined as where the nursing education program has legal domicile.

(19) "Host state" is defined as the state jurisdiction outside the home state where a student participates in clinical experiences or didactic courses.

(20) "Immediately available" as applied to nursing technicians, means that an RN who has agreed to act as supervisor is on the premises and is within audible range and available for immediate response as needed which may include the use of two-way communication devices which allow conversation between the nursing technician and an RN who has agreed to act as supervisor.

(a) In a hospital setting, the RN who has agreed to act as supervisor is on the same patient care unit as the nursing technician and the patient has been assessed by the RN prior to the delegation of duties to the nursing technician.

(b) In a nursing home or clinic setting, an RN who has agreed to act as supervisor is in the same building and on the same floor as the nursing technician and the patient has been assessed by the RN prior to the delegation of duties to the nursing technician.

(21) "Initial approval" of nursing education program is the approval status conferred by the commission to a new nursing program based on its proposal prior to the graduation of its first class.

(22) "Licensed practical nurse (LPN)" is a nurse licensed as defined in RCW 18.79.030(3), with a scope of practice defined in RCW 18.79.020 and 18.79.060.

(23) "Limited educational authorization" is an authorization to perform clinical training when enrolled as a student through a commission approved refresher course. This authorization does not permit practice for employment.

(24) "Minimum standards of competency" means the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are expected of the beginning practitioner.

(25) "National nursing education accreditation body" means an independent nonprofit entity, approved by the United States Department of Education as a body that evaluates and approves the quality of nursing education programs within the United States and territories.

(26) "Nontraditional program of nursing" means a school that has a curriculum which does not include a faculty supervised teaching and learning component in clinical settings.

(27) "Nursing education program administrator" is an individual who has the authority and responsibility for the administration of the nursing education program.

(28) "Nursing education program" means a division or department within a state supported educational institution or other institution of higher learning, charged with the responsibility of preparing nursing students and nurses to qualify for initial licensing or higher levels of nursing practice.

(29) "Nursing faculty" means an individual employed by a nursing education program who is responsible for developing, implementing, evaluating, updating, and teaching nursing education program curricula.

(30) "Nursing technician" means a nursing student preparing for RN or LPN licensure who meets the qualifications for licensure under RCW 18.79.340 who is employed in a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW or a nursing home licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW, or clinic. The nursing student must be in a nursing educational program in the United States or its territories that is approved by the state or territorial nursing regulatory authority and recognized in the list of approved nursing education programs using the National Council Licensure Examination-RN or National Council Licensure Examination-PN. Approved nursing education programs do not include nontraditional schools as defined in subsection ((-27-)) (26) of this section.

(31) "Philosophy" means the beliefs and principles upon which a nursing education program curriculum is based.

(32) "Practical nursing education program" means a nursing education program which, upon successful completion of course work that includes core nursing course to provide a sound theoretical base combining clinical experiences with nursing principles, critical thinking, and interactive skills for entry level practical nursing, awards a certificate or degree that the graduate is prepared for interdependent practice to prepare a practical nurse for interdependent practice as an LPN.

(33) "Registered nurse" or "RN" is a licensed nurse as defined in RCW 18.79.030(1), 18.79.040, 18.79.240, and 18.79.260.

(34) "Supervision" of licensed or unlicensed nursing personnel means the provision of guidance and evaluation for the accomplishment of a nursing task or activity with the initial direction of the task or activity; periodic inspection of the actual act of accomplishing the task or activity; and the authority to require corrective action.

(a) "Direct supervision" means the licensed RN who provides guidance to nursing personnel and evaluation of nursing tasks is on the premises, is quickly and easily available, and has assessed the patient prior to the delegation of the duties.

(b) "Immediate supervision" means the licensed RN who provides guidance to nursing personnel and evaluation of nursing tasks is on the premises, is within audible and visual range of the patient, and has assessed the patient prior to the delegation of duties.

(c) "Indirect supervision" means the licensed RN who provides guidance to nursing personnel and evaluation of nursing tasks is not on the premises but has given either written or oral instructions for the care and treatment of the patient and the patient has been assessed by the registered nurse prior to the delegation of duties.

(35) "Traditional nursing education program" means a program that has a curriculum which includes a faculty supervised teaching and learning component in clinical settings.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.050, 18.79.110, and 18.79.160. WSR 16-08-042, § 246-840-010, filed 3/30/16, effective 4/30/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110 and 2012 c 153. WSR 13-15-064, § 246-840-010, filed 7/15/13, effective 8/15/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.010 and 18.79.110. WSR 10-24-047, § 246-840-010, filed 11/24/10, effective 1/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110. WSR 08-11-019, § 246-840-010, filed 5/12/08, effective 6/12/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.79 RCW and 2003 c 258. WSR 04-13-053, § 246-840-010, filed 6/11/04, effective 6/11/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-840-010, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.79 RCW. WSR 97-13-100, § 246-840-010, filed 6/18/97, effective 7/19/97.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-08-031, filed 3/27/19, effective 4/27/19)

WAC 246-840-365 Inactive and reactivating an ARNP license. To apply for an inactive ARNP license, an ARNP shall comply with WAC 246-12-090 or 246-12-540, if military related.

(1) An ARNP may apply for an inactive license if he or she holds an active Washington state ARNP license without sanctions or restrictions.

(2) To return to active status the ARNP:

(a) Shall meet the requirements identified in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 4;

(b) Must hold an active RN license under chapter 18.79 RCW without sanctions or restrictions;

(c) Shall submit the fee as identified under WAC 246-840-990; and

(d) Shall submit evidence of current certification by the commission approved certifying body identified in WAC 246-840-302(1) (~~(~~

~~(e) Shall submit evidence of thirty contact hours of continuing education for each designation within the past two years; and~~

~~(f) Shall submit evidence of two hundred fifty hours of advanced clinical practice for each designation within the last two years.~~

~~(3) An ARNP applicant who does not have the required practice requirements, shall complete two hundred fifty hours of supervised advanced clinical practice for every two years the applicant may have been out of practice, not to exceed one thousand hours.~~

~~(4) The ARNP applicant needing to complete supervised advanced clinical practice shall obtain an ARNP interim permit consistent with the requirements for supervised practice defined in WAC 246-840-340 (4) and (5)).~~

~~((5))~~ (3) To regain prescriptive authority after inactive status, the applicant must meet the prescriptive authority requirements identified in WAC 246-840-410.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110. WSR 19-08-031, § 246-840-365, filed 3/27/19, effective 4/27/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.050, 18.79.110, and 18.79.160. WSR 16-08-042, § 246-840-365, filed 3/30/16, effective 4/30/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.010, [18.79.]050, [18.79.]110, and [18.79.]210. WSR 09-01-060, § 246-840-365, filed 12/11/08, effective 1/11/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-840-365, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory

Authority: Chapter 18.79 RCW. WSR 97-13-100, § 246-840-365, filed 6/18/97, effective 7/19/97.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-08-031, filed 3/27/19, effective 4/27/19)

WAC 246-840-367 Expired license. When an ARNP license is not renewed, it is placed in expired status and the nurse must not practice as an ARNP.

(1) To return to active status when the license has been expired for less than two years, the nurse shall:

(a) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2;

(b) Meet ARNP renewal requirements identified in WAC 246-840-360; and

(c) Meet the prescriptive authority requirements identified in WAC 246-840-450, if renewing prescriptive authority.

~~(2) ((Applicants who do not meet the required advanced clinical practice requirements must complete two hundred fifty hours of supervised advanced clinical practice for every two years the applicant may have been out of practice, not to exceed one thousand hours.~~

~~(3) The ARNP applicant needing to complete supervised advanced clinical practice shall obtain an ARNP interim permit consistent with the requirements for supervised practice defined in WAC 246-840-340 (4) and (5).~~

~~(4))~~ If the ARNP license has expired for two years or more, the applicant shall:

(a) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2;

(b) Submit evidence of current certification by the commission approved certifying body identified in WAC 246-840-302(3);

~~(c) ((Submit evidence of thirty contact hours of continuing education for each designation within the prior two years;~~

~~(d))~~ Submit evidence of two hundred fifty hours of advanced clinical practice completed within the prior two years; and

~~((e))~~ (d) Submit evidence of an additional thirty contact hours in pharmacology if requesting prescriptive authority, which may be granted once the ARNP license is returned to active status.

~~((5))~~ (3) If the applicant does not meet the required advanced clinical practice hours, the applicant shall obtain an ARNP interim permit consistent with the requirements for supervised advanced clinical practice as defined in WAC 246-840-340 (4) and (5).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110. WSR 19-08-031, § 246-840-367, filed 3/27/19, effective 4/27/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.050, 18.79.110, and 18.79.160. WSR 16-08-042, § 246-840-367, filed 3/30/16, effective 4/30/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.010, [18.79.]050, [18.79.]110, and [18.79.]210. WSR 09-01-060, § 246-840-367, filed 12/11/08, effective 1/11/09.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-08-026, filed 3/27/19, effective 4/27/19)

WAC 246-840-533 Nursing preceptors, interdisciplinary preceptors, and proctors in clinical or practice settings for nursing stu-

dents located in Washington state. (1) Nursing preceptors, interdisciplinary preceptors, and proctors may be used to enhance clinical or practice learning experiences after a student has received instruction and orientation from program faculty who confirm the student is adequately prepared for the clinical or practice experience. For the purpose of this section:

(a) A nursing preceptor means a practicing licensed nurse who provides personal instruction, training, and supervision to any nursing student, and meets all requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

(b) An interdisciplinary preceptor means a practicing health care provider who is not a licensed nurse, but provides personal instruction, training, and supervision to any nursing student, and meets all requirements of subsection (5) of this section.

(c) A proctor means an individual who holds an active credential in one of the professions identified in RCW 18.130.040 who monitors students during an examination, skill, or practice delivery, and meets all requirements of subsection (6) of this section.

(2) Nursing education faculty are responsible for the overall supervision and evaluation of the student and must confer with each primary nursing and interdisciplinary preceptor, and student at least once during each phase of the student learning experience:

- (a) Beginning;
- (b) Midpoint; and
- (c) End.

(3) A nursing preceptor or an interdisciplinary preceptor shall not precept more than two students at any one time.

(4) A nursing preceptor may be used in nursing education programs when the nursing preceptor:

- (a) Has an active, unencumbered nursing license at or above the level for which the student is preparing;
- (b) Has at least one year of clinical or practice experience as a licensed nurse at or above the level for which the student is preparing;
- (c) Is oriented to the written course and student learning objectives prior to beginning the preceptorship;
- (d) Is oriented to the written role expectations of faculty, preceptor, and student prior to beginning the preceptorship; and
- (e) Is not a member of the student's immediate family, as defined in RCW 42.17A.005(27); or have a financial, business, or professional relationship that is in conflict with the proper discharge of the preceptor's duties to impartially supervise and evaluate the nurse.

(5) An interdisciplinary preceptor may be used in nursing education programs when the interdisciplinary preceptor:

- (a) Has an active, unencumbered license in the area of practice appropriate to the nursing education faculty planned student learning objectives;
- (b) Has the educational preparation and at least one year of clinical or practice experience appropriate to the nursing education faculty planned student learning objectives;
- (c) Is oriented to the written course and student learning objectives prior to beginning the preceptorship;
- (d) Is oriented to the written role expectations of faculty, preceptor, and student prior to beginning the preceptorship; and
- (e) Is not a member of the student's immediate family, as defined in RCW 42.17A.005(27); or have a financial, business, or professional

relationship that is in conflict with the proper discharge of the preceptor's duties to impartially supervise and evaluate the nurse.

(6) A proctor who monitors, teaches, and supervises students during the performance of a task or skill must:

(a) Have the educational and experiential preparation for the task or skill being proctored;

(b) Have an active, unencumbered credential in one of the professions identified in RCW 18.130.040;

(c) Only be used on rare, short-term occasions to proctor students when a faculty member has determined that it is safe for a student to receive direct supervision from the proctor for the performance of a particular task or skill that is within the scope of practice for the nursing student; and

(d) Is not a member of the student's immediate family, as defined in RCW 42.17A.005(27); or have a financial, business, or professional relationship that is in conflict with the proper discharge of the preceptor's duties to impartially supervise and evaluate the nurse.

(7) A practice/academic partnership model may be used to permit practice hours as a nursing technician, as defined in WAC 246-840-010(30), to be credited toward direct care nursing program clinical hours, and academic credit. Use of this model must include:

(a) Endorsement by the nurse administrator placed in the student's file that:

(i) Traditional clinical experiences in a required area of study are limited or not available to the program; or

(ii) Circumstances are present in which the student will gain greater educational benefit from the nursing student-employee role;

(b) A nursing preceptor or nursing supervisor who has experience and educational preparation appropriate to the faculty-planned student learning experience. The nursing preceptor or nursing supervisor must be responsible for ensuring the requirements of WAC 246-840-880 are met;

(c) Nursing program faculty that work with health care facility representatives to align clinical skills and competencies with the nursing student-employee work role/responsibilities;

(d) Nursing student-employees with faculty-planned clinical practice experiences that enable the student to attain new knowledge, develop clinical reasoning/judgment abilities, and demonstrate achievement of clinical objectives and final learning outcomes of the nursing program if the nursing student-employee is in the final nursing course;

(e) The nursing student-employee use of reflection on the development or achievement of clinical objectives and final learning outcomes as designed by nursing education faculty;

(f) Nursing education faculty responsible for the overall supervision and evaluation of the nursing student-employee on a weekly basis;

(g) Evaluation by nursing education faculty to include documentation of the nursing student-employee achievement of clinical objectives and final learning outcomes and competencies of the nursing program; and

(h) Nursing technicians be enrolled in a commission-approved nursing program and be in good standing to receive academic credit.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110. WSR 19-08-026, § 246-840-533, filed 3/27/19, effective 4/27/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.010,

18.79.110, 18.79.150, 18.79.190, and 18.79.240. WSR 16-17-082, § 246-840-533, filed 8/17/16, effective 9/17/16.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-15-064, filed 7/15/13, effective 8/15/13)

WAC 246-840-840 Nursing technician. The purpose of the nursing technician credential is to provide additional work related opportunities for students enrolled in an LPN, ADN or BSN program, within the limits of their education, to gain valuable judgment and knowledge through expanded work opportunities.

(1) The nursing technician is as defined in WAC 246-840-010(~~((18))~~) (30).

(2) The nursing technician shall have knowledge and understanding of the laws and rules regulating the nursing technician and shall function within the legal scope of their authorization under chapter 18.79 RCW and shall be responsible and accountable for the specific nursing functions which they can safely perform as verified by their nursing program.

(3) The nursing technician shall work directly for the hospital, clinic or nursing home and may not be employed in these facilities through a temporary agency.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110 and 2012 c 153. WSR 13-15-064, § 246-840-840, filed 7/15/13, effective 8/15/13. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.79 RCW and 2003 c 258. WSR 04-13-053, § 246-840-840, filed 6/11/04, effective 6/11/04. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.79 RCW. WSR 97-13-100, § 246-840-840, filed 6/18/97, effective 7/19/97.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-15-063, filed 7/15/13, effective 8/15/13)

WAC 246-840-930 Criteria for delegation. (1) Before delegating a nursing task, the registered nurse delegator decides the task is appropriate to delegate based on the elements of the nursing process: ASSESS, PLAN, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE.

ASSESS

(2) The setting allows delegation because it is a community-based care setting as defined by RCW 18.79.260 (3) (e) (i) or an in-home care setting as defined by RCW 18.79.260 (3) (e) (ii).

(3) Assess the patient's nursing care needs and determine the patient's condition is stable and predictable. A patient may be stable and predictable with an order for sliding scale insulin or terminal condition.

(4) Determine the task to be delegated is within the delegating nurse's area of responsibility.

(5) Determine the task to be delegated can be properly and safely performed by the nursing assistant or home care aide. The registered nurse delegator assesses the potential risk of harm for the individual patient.

(6) Analyze the complexity of the nursing task and determine the required training or additional training needed by the nursing assis-

tant or home care aide to competently accomplish the task. The registered nurse delegator identifies and facilitates any additional training of the nursing assistant or home care aide needed prior to delegation. The registered nurse delegator ensures the task to be delegated can be properly and safely performed by the nursing assistant or home care aide.

(7) Assess the level of interaction required. Consider language or cultural diversity affecting communication or the ability to accomplish the task and to facilitate the interaction.

(8) Verify that the nursing assistant or home care aide:

(a) Is currently registered or certified as a nursing assistant or home care aide in Washington state without restriction;

(b) Has completed ~~((both))~~ the ~~((basic caregiver training and))~~ core delegation training before performing any delegated task;

(c) Has a certificate of completion issued by the department of social and health services indicating completion of the required core nurse delegation training;

(d) Has a certificate of completion issued by the department of social and health services indicating completion of diabetes training when providing insulin injections to a diabetic client; and

(e) Is willing and able to perform the task in the absence of direct or immediate nurse supervision and accept responsibility for their actions.

(9) Assess the ability of the nursing assistant or home care aide to competently perform the delegated nursing task in the absence of direct or immediate nurse supervision.

(10) If the registered nurse delegator determines delegation is appropriate, the nurse:

(a) Discusses the delegation process with the patient or authorized representative, including the level of training of the nursing assistant or home care aide delivering care.

(b) Obtains written consent. The patient, or authorized representative, must give written, consent to the delegation process under chapter 7.70 RCW. Documented verbal consent of patient or authorized representative may be acceptable if written consent is obtained within thirty days; electronic consent is an acceptable format. Written consent is only necessary at the initial use of the nurse delegation process for each patient and is not necessary for task additions or changes or if a different nurse, nursing assistant, or home care aide will be participating in the process.

PLAN

(11) Document in the patient's record the rationale for delegating or not delegating nursing tasks.

(12) Provide specific, written delegation instructions to the nursing assistant or home care aide with a copy maintained in the patient's record that includes:

(a) The rationale for delegating the nursing task;

(b) The delegated nursing task is specific to one patient and is not transferable to another patient;

(c) The delegated nursing task is specific to one nursing assistant or one home care aide and is not transferable to another nursing assistant or home care aide;

(d) The nature of the condition requiring treatment and purpose of the delegated nursing task;

(e) A clear description of the procedure or steps to follow to perform the task;

- (f) The predictable outcomes of the nursing task and how to effectively deal with them;
- (g) The risks of the treatment;
- (h) The interactions of prescribed medications;
- (i) How to observe and report side effects, complications, or unexpected outcomes and appropriate actions to deal with them, including specific parameters for notifying the registered nurse delegator, health care provider, or emergency services;
- (j) The action to take in situations where medications and/or treatments and/or procedures are altered by health care provider orders, including:
- (i) How to notify the registered nurse delegator of the change;
- (ii) The process the registered nurse delegator uses to obtain verification from the health care provider of the change in the medical order; and
- (iii) The process to notify the nursing assistant or home care aide of whether administration of the medication or performance of the procedure and/or treatment is delegated or not;
- (k) How to document the task in the patient's record;
- (l) Document teaching done and a return demonstration, or other method for verification of competency; and
- (m) Supervision shall occur at least every ninety days. With delegation of insulin injections, the supervision occurs at least weekly for the first four weeks, and may be more frequent.
- (13) The administration of medications may be delegated at the discretion of the registered nurse delegator, including insulin injections. Any other injection (intramuscular, intradermal, subcutaneous, intraosseous, intravenous, or otherwise) is prohibited. The registered nurse delegator provides to the nursing assistant or home care aide written directions specific to an individual patient.

IMPLEMENT

(14) Delegation requires the registered nurse delegator teach the nursing assistant or home care aide how to perform the task, including return demonstration or other method of verification of competency as determined by the registered nurse delegator.

(15) The registered nurse delegator is accountable and responsible for the delegated nursing task. The registered nurse delegator monitors the performance of the task(s) to assure compliance with established standards of practice, policies and procedures and appropriate documentation of the task(s).

EVALUATE

(16) The registered nurse delegator evaluates the patient's responses to the delegated nursing care and to any modification of the nursing components of the patient's plan of care.

(17) The registered nurse delegator supervises and evaluates the performance of the nursing assistant or home care aide, including direct observation or other method of verification of competency of the nursing assistant or home care aide. The registered nurse delegator reevaluates the patient's condition, the care provided to the patient, the capability of the nursing assistant or home care aide, the outcome of the task, and any problems.

(18) The registered nurse delegator ensures safe and effective services are provided. Reevaluation and documentation occurs at least every ninety days. Frequency of supervision is at the discretion of the registered nurse delegator and may be more often based upon nursing assessment.

(19) The registered nurse must supervise and evaluate the performance of the nursing assistant or home care aide with delegated insulin injection authority at least weekly for the first four weeks. After the first four weeks the supervision shall occur at least every ninety days.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110, 18.79.260, 2012 c 164, and 2012 c 10. WSR 13-15-063, § 246-840-930, filed 7/15/13, effective 8/15/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110, 18.79.260, 18.88A060 [18.88A.060], and 18.88A.210. WSR 09-06-006, § 246-840-930, filed 2/18/09, effective 3/21/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110, 18.79.260 (3)(f), 18.88A.210, 2003 c 140. WSR 04-14-065, § 246-840-930, filed 7/2/04, effective 7/2/04. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.79 and 18.88A RCW. WSR 02-02-047, § 246-840-930, filed 12/27/01, effective 1/27/02. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.79 RCW. WSR 97-13-100, § 246-840-930, filed 6/18/97, effective 7/19/97; WSR 96-05-060, § 246-840-930, filed 2/19/96, effective 3/21/96.]