

02-380 MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Chapter 6 REGULATIONS RELATING TO COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT OF PATIENT CARE SERVICES BY UNLICENSED HEALTH CARE ASSISTIVE PERSONNEL

SUMMARY: This chapter sets forth regulations governing coordination and oversight by registered professional nurses of patient care services provided by unlicensed health care assistive personnel.

Sec. 1. Definition

For purposes of this chapter, unlicensed health care assistive personnel are personnel who are not licensed by the board to practice nursing.

Sec. 2. Coordination and Oversight

1. General Authority

Except as otherwise provided by Chapter 5, and in accordance with this chapter, the registered professional nurse may coordinate and oversee unlicensed health care assistive personnel for specific tasks for specific patients, consistent with patient safety. Except as provided by 32 M.R.S.A. Section 2102(2)(G), the registered professional nurse shall not coordinate and oversee unlicensed health care assistive personnel for health counseling, teaching or any task that requires independent, specialized nursing knowledge, skill or judgment.

2. Elements of Coordination and Oversight

A. Factors to be considered

Factors to be considered by the nurse as to whether that nurse may coordinate his/her services with unlicensed health care assistive personnel, consistent with patient safety, include without limitation: acuity of the patient; stability of the condition of the patient; training and capability of the unlicensed health care assistive personnel; nature of the tasks; and the setting in which care is to be delivered.

B. The nurse's responsibility

The nurse who coordinates and oversees services provided by unlicensed health care assistive personnel shall do the following:

- (1) identify the needs of the patient, consulting the plan of care
- (2) identify the task to be performed by the unlicensed health care assistive personnel
- (3) provide directions regarding the task to be performed
- (4) determine the ability of the unlicensed health care assistive personnel to perform the task
- (5) monitor reporting and documentation of the task
- (6) ensure that the unlicensed assistive personnel assigned to that nurse's patient reports directly to the nurse for the performance of nursing tasks
- (7) evaluate performance of the task and patient outcome, and initiate corrective action when necessary.

Statutory Authority: 32 M.R.S.A. Sections 2102(2)(H) and 2153(A)(1)

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