

NURSING SCOPE OF PRACTICE STATEMENT

The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) and the Utah Board of Nursing (Board) does not provide legal advice for nurses regarding “scope of practice” questions. The scope of practice for licensed nursing professionals in Utah is defined by the Utah State Legislature through the Nurse Practice Act (Act).

The dynamic nature of nursing practice and the evolving nature of healthcare make it impossible for the Board or DOPL to delineate, describe, or list individual tasks which may be associated with nursing practice. Each licensed nurse is responsible and accountable for his or her own nursing practice. The nurse must provide nursing care that is consistent with his/her education and training, policies of the employing organization, and existing statutes and rules. The nurse is expected to remain current in his/her knowledge of best practice standards and guidelines, national trends, community standards related to nursing practice, and the statutes and rules governing licensure in the state where the nurse is licensed.

The Nurse Practice Act defines the practice of nursing at the various levels of licensure. The Act prescribes qualifications for licensure and it defines unlawful and unprofessional conduct. Each nurse is encouraged to read the Nurse Practice Act on a regular basis. A copy of the Act is available at: <http://www.dopl.utah.gov/licensing/nursing.html>

There are some elements of the Nurse Practice Act which the legislature requires, or allows, DOPL-in consultation with the Board-to define in more detail through Rule. The Nurse Practice Act Rule outlines various processes for obtaining and maintaining nursing licensure in Utah. The Nurse Practice Act Rule also provide guidelines for nurses related to delegation in nursing, standards of professional accountability, and implementation of the scope of nursing practice. Each nurse is encouraged to read the Nurse Practice Act Rule on a regular basis. A copy of the Rule is available at: <http://www.dopl.utah.gov/licensing/nursing.html>

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