



Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.

POSITION STATEMENT

Role Delineation of the Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse in Gastroenterology

Disclaimer

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Definitions

Role delineation is a description of the responsibilities and functions of a healthcare worker in a specific role, including the current activities common to this role.

Background

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)/Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) practice in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes, private offices, ambulatory surgery centers, and clinics (Kelsey, 2006). Recognizing that the role of the LPN/LVN in gastroenterology continues to evolve, the following is a statement intended to broadly describe the responsibilities and functions of the LPN/LVN in this specialty. The roles which the LPN/LVN assumes depend on his/her basic nursing preparation, specialized formal or informal education, and clinical experiences. The LPN/LVN functions within the scope of practice as defined by state nurse practice acts, job description of the employing facility, *Standards of Clinical Nursing Practice and Role Delineation Statements* (SGNA, 2009), and the *Nursing Practice Standards for the Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse* (National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses, Inc., 2003).

Position

Under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse (RN) or physician, the LPN/LVN is accountable for the quality of nursing care he or she provides to patients and utilizing the nursing process, assumes responsibility for planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing care for assigned patients in the gastroenterology setting.

The role of the LPN/LVN includes, but is not limited to:

1. Contributing to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of patient care,
2. Observing, recording, and reporting significant changes in the patient's healthcare status,
3. Documenting patient data to ensure continuity in the provision and coordination of patient care,
4. Effectively communicate with patients, significant support person(s), and

- members of interdisciplinary healthcare team incorporating interpersonal and therapeutic communication skills (National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc. [NAPNES], 2007),
5. Administering and evaluating pharmacological and other therapeutic treatment regimens within the limitations of licensure and institutional policy,
 6. Assisting the physician and/or Gastroenterology (GI) Registered Nurse during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures to promote optimal patient outcomes by team collaboration,
 7. Performing diagnostic studies as ordered by a physician within the limitations of licensure and institutional policy,
 8. Assisting with follow-up care,
 9. Collaborating with other inter-professional health care members,
 10. Acting as a resource for others,
 11. Serving as a mentor for other LPN/LVNs and Nursing Assistive Personnel,
 12. Participating in life long self-development activities to advance and maintain current knowledge and skills for continuing competency,
 13. Participating in data collection for research and evidence-based practice to improve patient outcomes,
 14. Participating in quality management activities, and
 15. Participating as an active member in professional and consumer organizations.

References

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National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses, Inc. (2003). *Nursing practice standards for the licensed practical/vocational nurse*. Garner, NC: Author.

Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (2009). *Standards of clinical nursing practice and role delineation statements* [Practice standard]. Chicago, IL: Author.

Recommended reading

Hudson, M., & Burke, K. (2009). Demystifying the LVN role. *Sentinel*, 28(2), 8-10.

Livornese, K. (2012). Advantages of utilizing LVNs. *Nursing Management*, 43(8), 19-21

Reeves, D. (1996). A licensed practical nurse/licensed vocational nurse's guide to the changing healthcare system, *Gastroenterology Nursing*, 20(2), 54-56.

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