Scope of Practice Decision Tree

Identify, describe, or clarify the activity, intervention, or role under consideration.

Is the activity, intervention, or role prohibited by Washington State nursing laws and rules/regulations or any other applicable laws, rules/regulations, or accreditation standards or professional nursing scope and standards?

NO

Is performing the activity, intervention, or role consistent with evidence-based nursing and health care literature?

YES

STOP

NO

Are there practice setting policies and procedures in place to support performing the activity, intervention, or role?

YES

STOP

NO

Has the nurse completed the necessary education to safely perform the activity, intervention, or role?

YES

STOP

NO

Is there documented evidence of the nurse’s current competence (knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgments) to safely perform the activity, intervention, or role?

YES

STOP

NO

Does the nurse have the appropriate resources to perform the activity, intervention, or role in the practice setting?

YES

STOP

NO

Would a reasonable and prudent nurse perform the activity, intervention, or role in this setting?

YES

STOP

NO

Is the nurse prepared to accept accountability for the activity, intervention, or role and for the related outcomes?

YES

STOP

NO

The nurse may perform the activity, intervention, or role to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care.


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