

## Examples, FAQs, & Additional Guidance for Kentucky Board of Nursing RN/LPN Scope of Practice Comparison Chart

### **Accountability and Responsibility of Nurses**

Nurses are individually responsible and accountable for individual acts based upon the nurse's education and experience. Each nurse must exercise professional and prudent judgment in determining whether the performance of a given act is within the scope of practice for which the nurse is both licensed and clinically competent to perform.

Each nurse is required to obtain the educational preparation and current clinical competency to perform acts within a safe and effective manner. The nurse should have documented educational preparation, supervised clinical practice experience, and ongoing competency validation appropriate to responsibilities, treatment provided, and the patient/population served. The Kentucky Board of Nursing does not specify how that training is acquired or how much training is required; that determination is at the sole discretion of the employer.

After determining if a task is within a nurse's scope of practice, if there are any statutory or facility restrictions on practice, or if the performance of the act is within the accepted "standard of care," a nurse must be prepared to accept accountability for the activity or intervention and for the outcome. It is the responsibility of the nurse to review and understand state Nurse Practice Acts—including statutes, regulations, and advisory opinions, in addition to organization/facility policies and procedures.

- **Example:** An LPN who has not reviewed the Kentucky Nurse Practice Act and advisory opinions believes that all states have a similar scope of practice for LPNs and believes they can administer a new investigational medication via an intrathecal line. This is not within the scope of practice for an LPN in Kentucky, and the LPN who practices outside their scope is held accountable for their decisions and actions.