



Licensed Practical Nursing Scope of Practice in Kentucky



KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING

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## Kentucky Board of Nursing Development of LPN Scope of Practice

The Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN) is an agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, governed by the Nurse Practice Act.

KBN is charged with protecting the public by developing and enforcing laws to provide for the safe practice of nursing.

The Board is a separate and distinct entity from any professional association.

- **KRS 314.021 (1)** – states “that the practice of nursing should be regulated and controlled ..... by regulations of the board in order to protect and safeguard the health and safety of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.”
- **KRS 314.021 (2)** – requires “All individuals licensed or privileged under provisions of this chapter shall be responsible and accountable for making decisions that are based upon the individuals’ educational preparation and experience in nursing and shall practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety.”

KBN receives frequent inquiries on the scope of practice for the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

When KBN receives several inquiries on a particular practice or subject it issues Advisory Opinion Statements as to what constitutes safe nursing practice. As such, an opinion is not a regulation of the Board and does not have the force and effect of law. It is issued as a guide to licensees who wish to engage in safe nursing practice.

### The Nursing Process

- KRS 314.011(4) defines "nursing process" as:

“...the investigative approach to nursing practice utilizing a method of problem-solving by means of:

- a) Nursing diagnosis, a systematic investigation of a health concern and an analysis of the data collected in order to arrive at an identifiable problem; and
- b) Planning, implementation and evaluation based on nationally accepted standards of nursing practice.”

## Licensed Practical Nursing Scope of Practice

- **KRS 314.011 (9)** – Defines “Licensed practical nurse” as “one who is licensed or holds privilege under the provisions of this chapter to engage in licensed practical nursing practice.”
- **KRS 314.011 (10)** - Defines “Licensed practical nursing practice” as “the performance of acts requiring knowledge and skill such as are taught or acquired in approved schools for practical nursing.”

### The LPN

- Provides care for the ill, injured, or infirm under the direction of a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, licensed physician, or dentist.
- Gives counsel and applies procedures to safe guard life and health, as defined and authorized by the board.
- Administers medication and treatment as authorized by a physician, physician assistant, dentist, or advanced practice registered nurse.
- Teaches, supervises, and delegates except as limited by the board.
- Performs other nursing acts as authorized or limited by the board and are consistent with the National Federation of Practical Nurses or Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of licensed practical nurses.



**Although an act might be in a nurse’s scope of practice, if the nurse does not have the required education, clinical competence, and necessary skills, the act should not be performed.**

## Registered Nursing Scope of Practice

- **KRS 314.011 (5)** – Defines “Registered nurse” as one who is licensed or holds the privilege under the provisions of this chapter to engage in registered nursing practice.”
- **KRS 314.011 (6)** – Defines “Registered nursing practice” as “the performance of acts requiring substantial specialized knowledge, judgement, and nursing skill based upon the principles of psychological, biological, physical, and social sciences in the application of the nursing process.”

### The RN

- Provides care, counsel, and health teaching for the ill, injured or infirm.
- Maintenance of health or prevention of illness of others.
- Prepares and gives medications in the prescribed dosage, route, and frequency, including dispensing medications.
- Recognizes prescribing limits and reports deviations, drug incompatibilities, interactions, or potential interactions.
- Observes, records, and reports desired effects, untoward reactions, and side effects of drug therapy.
- Supervises, teaches, and delegates to other personnel in the performance of nursing care activities.
- Performs other nursing acts which are authorized or limited by the board, and which are consistent either with American Nurses’ Association Standards of Practice or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of registered nurse.



- **KRS 324.181** – states “A registered nurse who is employed by a health facility as defined in KRS 216B.015 may determine whether or not a patient is dead in accordance with the requirements of KRS 446.

## Advisory Opinion Statements

### AOS # 27 “Components of Licensed Practical Nursing Practice”

In response to inquiries on the scope of licensed practical nurses, KBN issued AOS #27 as a guideline identifying components of clinical practice for the LPN. LPNs operate under the direction of a registered nurse, physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or dentist and are not licensed for independent practice. Direction and supervision of the practice of a registered nurse is not within the legal scope of LPN practice.

#### Components of AOS #27 include:

- **Assessment** - is an ongoing process that consists of participation with the registered nurse in the determination of nursing care needs based upon collection and interpretation of data relevant to the health status of a client.
- **Planning** - nursing care activities includes participation with the registered nurse in determining nursing interventions to meet client needs. The licensed practical nurse participates in the ongoing development and modification of the plan/strategy of care.
- **Implementation** - of nursing actions consists of delivering nursing care according to an established plan/strategy of care and/or as delegated by the registered nurse.
- **Evaluation** - consists of participation with the registered nurse in determining the extent to which desired outcomes of nursing care are being met, and then subsequently planning for continued care.
- **Reporting and Recording** - are those communications required to document on essential records all aspects of nursing care for which the licensed practical nurse is responsible.
- **Collaborating** - involves communicating and working cooperatively in implementing the nursing plan/strategy of care with individuals whose services may have a direct or indirect effect upon the client's health care.
- **Teaching and Counseling** - involve those educational activities for clients based upon established written guidelines as delineated in a plan/strategy of care.

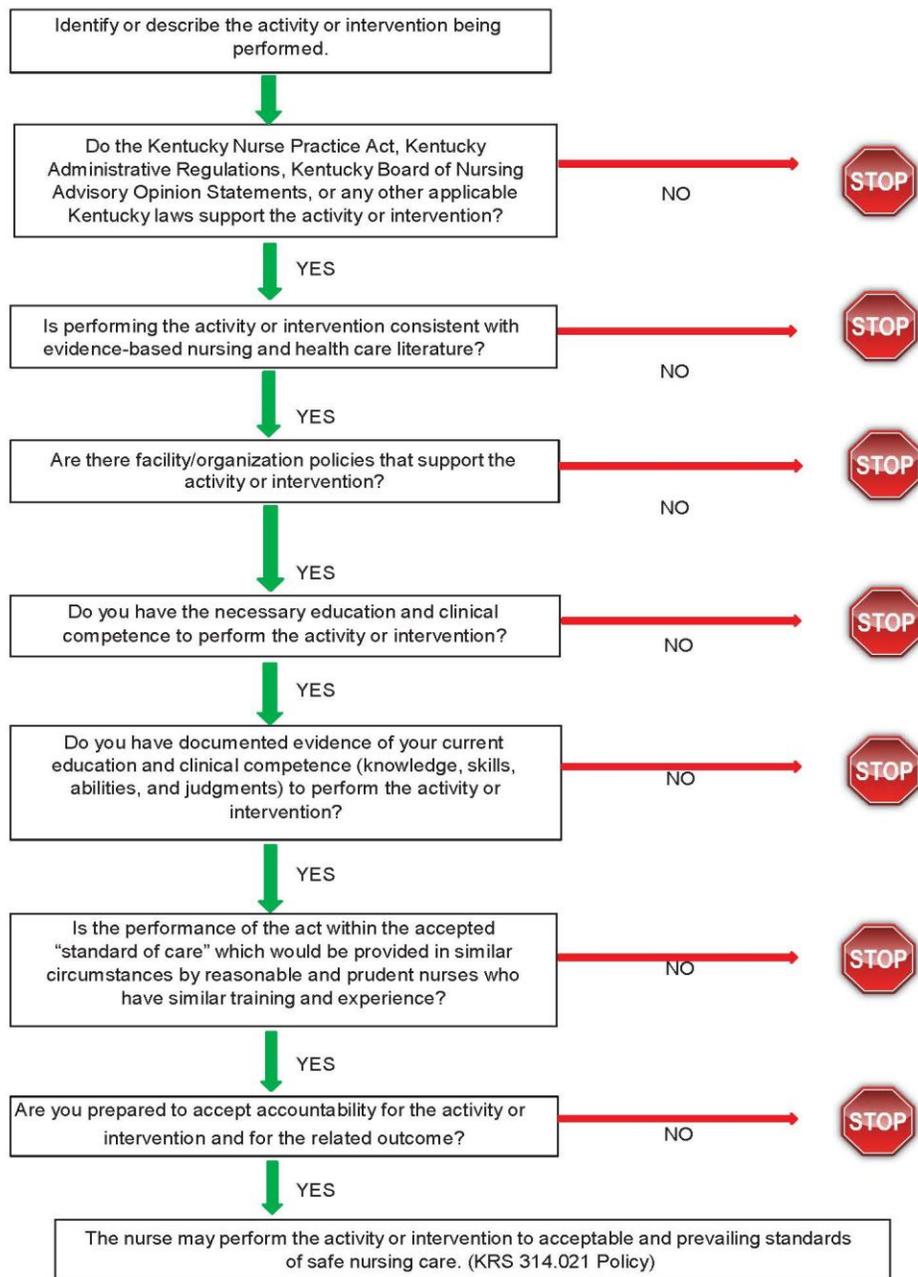
~**Tuberculin skin test “TST”** - 902 KAR 20:205 Tuberculosis (TB) testing for health care workers Section 1 (17) provides the definition for “Tuberculin Skin Test” or “TST”. Section 3 (2) (b) of this regulation states “a licensed practical nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse may perform a TST.”

It is within the scope of practice of the licensed practical nurse, who is educationally prepared and clinically competent, to administer a TST and assess the result under the direction and supervision of a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant or registered nurse. There should be documentation of the nurse's educational preparation and clinical competence.

## AOS #41 Scope of Practice Determination Guidelines

When the performance of a specific act is not definitively addressed in the *Kentucky Nursing Laws* or in an advisory opinion of the Board, the nurse must exercise professional judgement in determining whether the performance of the act is within the scope of practice for which the individual nurse is licensed. KBN has developed a decision making model that provides guidelines to nurses in determining whether a selected act is within an individual nurse's scope of practice.

**KBN DECISION-MAKING MODEL FOR DETERMINING SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR RNs/LPNs**



Approved 2/2018

## The LPN Infusion Therapy

**Administrative Regulation 201 KAR 20:490** - Licensed practical nurse infusion therapy scope of practice, addresses definitions, education and training, supervision requirements, standards of practice, and prohibited functions.

### Definitions include:

- **Administration** – Initiate and maintain infusion therapy.
- **Antineoplastic Agent** – A medication that prevents the development, growth, or proliferation of malignant cells.
- **Central Venous Access Device** – A catheter inserted into a peripheral or centrally located vein with the tip residing in the superior or inferior vena cava. This includes peripherally inserted central catheters.
- **Direction** – A communication of a plan of care based upon assessment of a patient by an advanced practice registered nurse, a registered nurse, physician assistant, licensed physician, or dentist that establishes the parameters for the provision of care or for the performance of a procedure.
- **Peripheral Venous Access Device** – A peripherally-inserted intravenous catheter or needle that is less than or equal to three (3) inches in length.
- **Pharmacology** – Information on the classification of intravenous drugs, indications for use, pharmacological properties, monitoring parameters, contraindications, dosing, clinical mathematics, anticipated side effects, potential complications, antidotal therapy, compatibilities, stabilities, specific considerations for select intravenous drugs, and administration of intravenous medications to pediatric, adult, and geriatric populations.
- **Procedural Sedation** – The administration of intravenous medications to produce a decreased level of consciousness.
- **Supervision** – The provision of guidance by a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, licensed physician or dentist for the accomplishment of a task with periodic observation and evaluation of the performance of the task including validation that the nursing task has been performed in a safe manner.
- **Supervisor** – The registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, licensed physician, or dentist who provides supervision of the licensed practical nurse's practice....
- **Therapeutic Phlebotomy** – Removal of a specific volume of blood from a patient as ordered for the treatment of a specific condition or disease.
- **Unstable** – Inconsistent, unpredictable, or consistently fluctuating.

## Supervision

LPNs performing infusion therapy must be under the direction and supervision of a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, licensed physician, or dentist.

- Direction – Communication of a plan of care based on patient assessment by a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, licensed physician, or dentist providing parameters of care and/or performance of a procedure.
- Supervision – Guidance, periodic observation, evaluation, and validation.

## Degree of Supervision

Degree of supervision is based on a patient's condition as determined by the LPN's supervisor.

- Supervisor may provide supervision without being physically present in the immediate vicinity of the LPN, when a patient's condition is stable, predictable, and rapid change is not anticipated, but the supervisor must be readily available.
- Supervisor must be physically present in the immediate vicinity of the LPN and immediately available to intervene in care, when:
  - A patient's condition is or becomes unstable.
  - A patient is receiving blood, blood components, or plasma volume expanders.
  - A patient is receiving peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

In 2018, 201 KAR 20:490 was amended which lists specifically those functions which are prohibited to be performed by licensed practical nurses. Functions not listed may be performed if the licensed practical nurse is educationally prepared and clinically competent.

## LPN Prohibited Infusion Therapy Functions

- Administration of tissue plasminogen activators, except when used to declot any central venous access device.
- Accessing of central venous access device used for hemodynamic monitoring.
- Administration of medications or fluids via arterial lines or implanted arterial ports.
- Accessing or programming an implanted infusion pump.
- Administration of infusion therapy medications for the purpose of procedural sedation or anesthesia.
- Administration of fluids or medications via an epidural, intrathecal, intraosseous, or umbilical route, or via a ventricular reservoir.
- Administration of medications or fluids via an arteriovenous fistula or graft, except for dialysis.
- Repair of a central venous access device.
- Performance of therapeutic phlebotomy.
- Aspiration of an arterial line.
- Initiation and removal of a peripherally inserted central, midclavicular or midline catheter.
- Administration of immunoglobulins, antineoplastic agents, or investigational drugs.

## **Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN)**

The Kentucky Board of Nursing is the agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky governed by the Nurse Practice Act. KBN protects the well-being of the public by development and enforcement of state laws governing the safe practice of nursing, nursing education, and credentialing.

### **Additional Resources**

Statutes, Regulations, Advisory Opinion Statements, Summaries of Practice Opinions, the KBN Connection, and additional information is available at [www.kbn.ky.gov](http://www.kbn.ky.gov).

### **Contact Us**

If you have a question regarding the practice of licensed practical nurses or registered nurses or the information contained in this booklet, please contact:

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