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NURSING PRACTICE GUIDE
RN

The following series of questions is intended as a suggested guideline to help you determine whether a specific practice that you might undertake is consistent with the nursing practice acts and regulations of the Board. It does not constitute legal advice and does not constitute Board approval or disapproval of any practice.

1. Is the practice permitted or prohibited by the Pennsylvania nursing practice acts or regulations?
2. Does the practice require you to have, and do you in fact have, the specialized nursing knowledge, preparation, experience, skill and competency? (See, Sections 21.11(c) and 18(a)(1) of the Board's regulations, 49 Pa. Code §§21.11(c) and 18(a)(1))
3. Is the practice consistent with the ethical and quality standards embraced by the professional nursing community in the Commonwealth? (See, Section 14(a)(9) of the Professional Nursing Law, 63 P.S. §224(a)(9))
4. Is the practice contained in standards of practice developed by appropriate nursing associations? (Section §21.11(d) of the Board's regulations, 49 Pa. Code §21.11(d))
5. Are you prepared to accept full responsibility for your action and be accountable to the client or patient? (See, Sections 21.11(b) and 21.18 of the Board's regulations, 49 Pa. Code §§21.11(b) and 21.18)

The Board cannot, by law, pre-approve a specific practice. Regulations and published policy statements of the Board may provide guidance. It is the responsibility of the nurse to practice in accordance with the nurse practice acts and regulations and ascertain whether a practice is acceptable to the professional nursing community and to exercise professional judgment in the treatment of patients. The Board's authority to decide whether a nurse has adhered to accepted ethical and quality standards arises only in the context of a disciplinary action.

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