Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Role and Scope Course

Introduction

- This module was developed to implement the educational provisions in R4-19-301, which requires candidates who are graduates from a registered nursing program and want that to obtain a practical nurse license to complete a Board prescribed role delineation course. This module and the accompanying learning activities will provide the needed role delineation education required
- The course is also available for any member of the public to access to learn more about licensed practical nurses, their role and scope

Instructions for Course Completion

- To accomplish the objectives of this module, all the required materials must be read including.
  - This presentation
  - The Nurse Practice Act Definition of Licensed Practical Nurse
  - Rules of the Board pertaining to Standards of LPN Practice
  - Practical Nursing level Advisory Opinions

All materials are either hyperlinked in this presentation or available on our website: www.azbn.gov

Testing

- Upon completion of the module, candidates who are required to complete this education for licensure will need to take and pass a test .
- To access information about the test contact the Education Program Administrative Assistant Lyn Ledbetter LLedbetter@azbn.gov
- The test must be taken by appointment, in the Board offices (1740 W Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ). The test is proctored.

Course Objectives

- Discuss the role and practice of the licensed practical nurse
- Differentiate between the role of the Registered Nurse (RN) and the LPN in the nursing process
- Locate the documents that define the scope of practice for the practical nurse on the State Board website.
- Define what Advisory Opinions (AO) are and how they are used in Arizona
- Describe elements of specific Advisory Opinions that clarify scope of practice for the LPN

What is an LPN

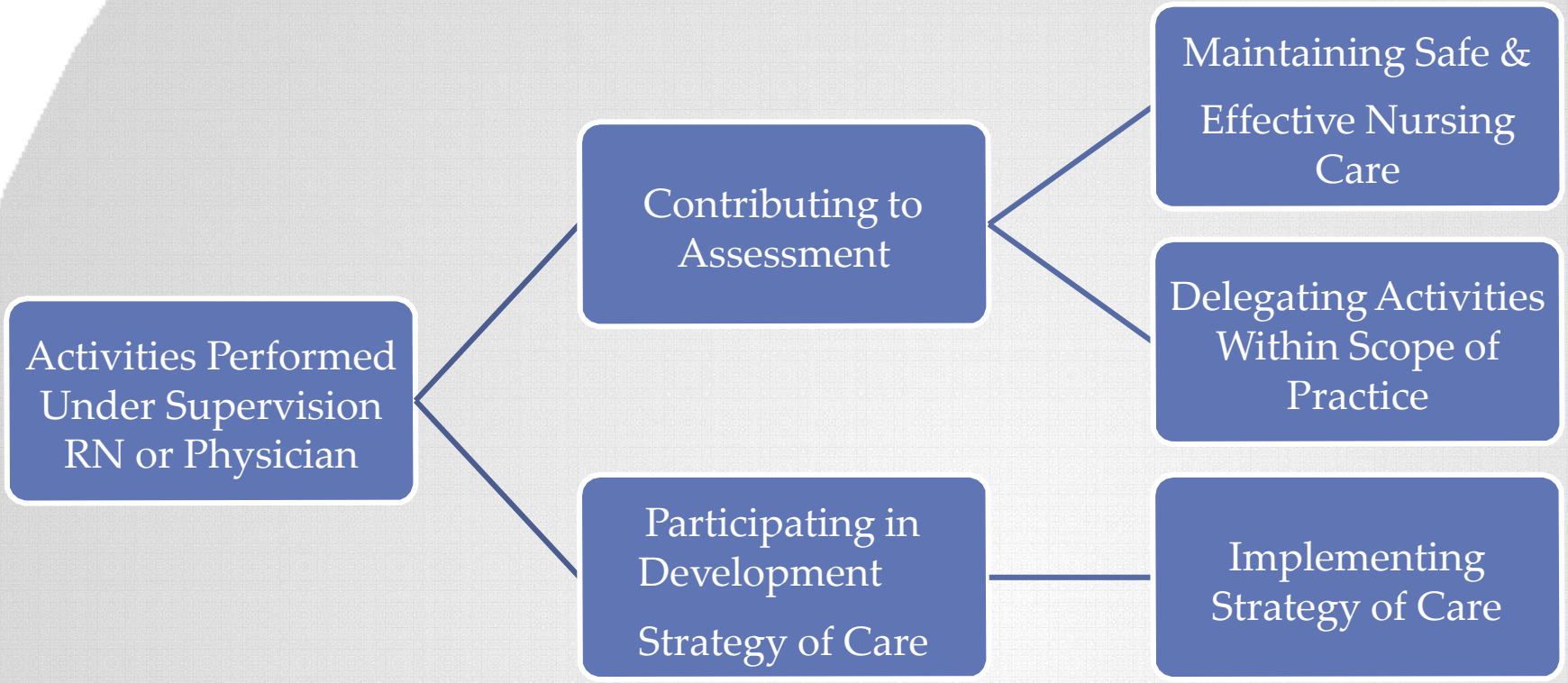
- Graduate of a Board approved nursing school or program
- Bears full responsibility for the quality of health care she/he provides
- Practices under ARS 32-1601(12)—see Nurse Practice Act and R-19-401

General Scope of Practice

- Operates under the supervision of an RN or physician
- Participates in the nursing process, but does not take the leading role. **No nursing diagnosis**
- Participates in patient teaching with an established RN-prepared teaching plan ***or*** to reinforce RN or physician teaching.
- Delegates to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) as appropriate
- Follows established medical regimen and observes therapeutic response

LPN Scope Model

LPNs are taught to differentiate normal from abnormal and to identify changes in patient conditions to be reported to RN or Physician for further "comprehensive assessment"



Scope and Setting

- Law determines scope, not setting
- Some settings may restrict scope
- No setting may expand scope
- Know the policies and guidelines of YOUR facility!

Assessment

- The LPN role is **data collection and contributing to the assessment**
  - Gathering and recording assessment data
  - Recognizing client characteristics that may affect client health status
  - Recognizing variations from baseline
  - Reporting signs/symptoms and changes in condition to RN/physician
  - **RN** is responsible for the **comprehensive assessment**

Planning

- The Licensed Practical Nurse **contributes** to the development of the care plan
  - Planning care for patients who are stable or predictable
  - Observing patient needs and concerns
  - Assisting RN/physician in identifying problems/needs and goals
  - Determining priorities of care in collaboration with RN/physician

Implementation

- Follows RN/physician orders
- Seeks clarification of orders when needed
- Administers treatments, meds and procedures
- Attends to client and family concerns or request
- Provides health information **as directed** by RN/physician or according to an **established teaching plan**
- Maintains safe client environment
- Communicates relevant information to team members
- Documents all care

Evaluation

- The Licensed Practical Nurse **contributes** to the evaluation phase
  - Gather, observe, record, and report patient responses to nursing interventions.
  - Modify plan of care in collaboration with RN based on client response.

Delegation

- A LPN can delegate nursing activities **to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP)**
- Assign nursing care to other LPNs
- A LPN **may not** delegate or assign nursing activities **to RNs**
- The LPN must follow the delegation guidelines as pertaining to task, supervision, training, communications, and client status

Delegation Guidelines

- UAP has the education, legal authority, and demonstrated competency to perform the delegated task;
- Tasks delegated are consistent with the UAP's job description and can be **safely performed according to clear, exact, and unchanging directions;**
- Results of the task are reasonably predictable;
- Task does not require assessment, interpretation, or independent decision making during its performance or at completion;

Delegation Guidelines

- The client and circumstances of the delegation poses minimal risk to the client and the consequences of performing the task improperly are not life-threatening;
- LPN provides clear directions and guidelines regarding the delegated task or, for routine tasks on stable clients, verifies that the UAP follows each written facility policy or procedure when performing the delegated task;

Advisory Opinions

- An Advisory Opinion (AO) is an interpretation by the Board of what the law requires.
- While an AO is not law, it is more than a recommendation.
- An AO is the official opinion of the Arizona Board of Nursing regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to a specific standard of care.
- AOs are available on the Board of Nursing website at www.azbn.gov under the resources tab

Specific items

- There are a few specific AOs that pertain to routine patient care for the LPN. Read the following AOs before taking quiz.
  - Intravenous Infusion Therapy/venipuncture: The Role of the Licensed Practical Nurse
  - Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter(PICC) Insertion, Suturing, Maintenance, Removal & Verification of Tip Placement
  - Wound Care: Role of the LPN
  - Orders: Accepting, Transcribing, Reviewing Orders
  - Ventilator Care By LPN's

Take time to read all PN level AOs!

Comparison of LPN and RN scope

- For a comparison of RN and LPN scope and role please access the following 2 documents and R4-19-401 and R-4-19-402
  - AZBN Competency Model
  - Comparison of RN and LPN Standards Related to Scope

Common Examples Outside Your Scope

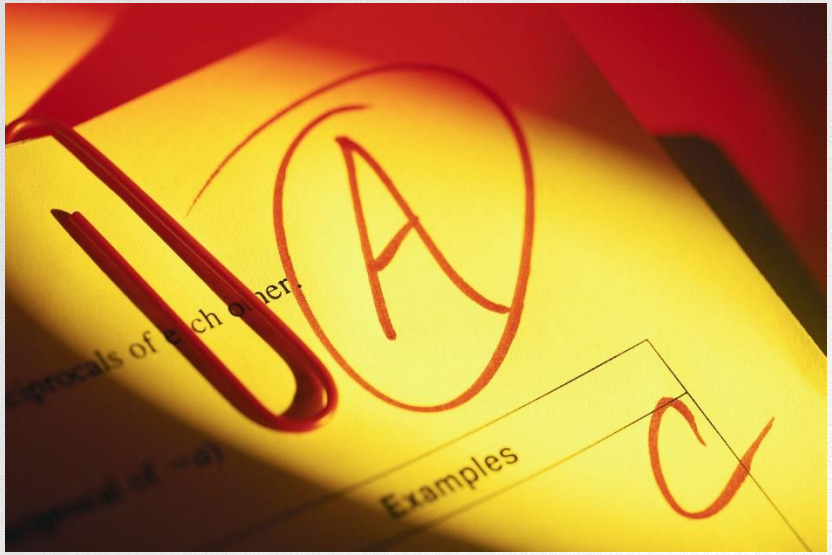
- Prescribing— Intravenous (IV) fluids, medication, oxygen without an order
- Performing the action and getting the order later—faulty habit
- Carrying out activities that are usually reserved for a higher level of provider
- Practicing outside your facility's policy
- **ATTITUDE**—I am better than peers/can do more/no one will find out

Rules to Remember

- If you didn't learn it in nursing school or formal post licensure education—**don't do it**
- If you are not familiar with the procedure—**don't do it**
- If you are considering doing it because of peer/patient/family pressure—**don't do it**
- If it is not in your facility's policy manual, **don't do it**

Summary

- If you have been paying attention to these slides and completed the suggested reading, you should be able to answer the following discussion questions?
  - What standards the same for both RNs and LPNs?
  - What is different in their scope and standards of practice?
  - What is the LPN role in infusion therapy?
  - Under what circumstances can an LPN take a telephone order?
  - What are the responsibilities of the LPN in delegation?
  - What is the role of the LPN in wound care?
  - What are the differences in education between an RN and LPN?

The End

- This is the end of the presentation
- If you need to take the exam, please refer to the instructions in Slide 4