Nurse

Roles

Nurses provide and coordinate client care, educate clients and the public about various health conditions, and provide health information and emotional support to clients and their family members. There are four types of nurses.

- The licensed vocational nurse (LVN) practices under the supervision of a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician's assistant, physician, podiatrist, or dentist. The licensed vocational nurse can assist in the determination of predictable healthcare needs of clients and assign unlicensed nurses specific tasks and activities.

- The registered nurse (RN) determines the nursing healthcare needs of clients and utilizes a comprehensive, systematic, individualized, goal-directed approach. The RN may delegate tasks to LVNs and unlicensed nurses (NA and NT) in acute and/or stable, predictable conditions.

- Based on completing an advanced educational program acceptable to a state board of nursing, a RN can be approved by the board to practice as an advanced practice nurse (APN). For Texas, this term includes nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, nurse anesthetist, and the clinical nurse specialist. The advanced practice nurse is prepared to practice in an expanded role, in which the APN through can provide medical aspects of care. Additionally, the APN has specified privileges of prescriptive authority. Under this license, the APN acts independently and/or in collaboration with other health care professionals in the delivery of health care services and maintains the responsibility to adhere to the nurse practice act.

- Nurse aides (NA), Nurse Assistant (NA), and nurse technicians (NT) are unlicensed nurses who are delegated nursing tasks by one of the licensed nurses noted above. The responsibilities stated below do not apply to the unlicensed nurse, NA and NT.
Roles and Responsibilities of Healthcare Professionals

**Responsibilities**

- Oversee in the administration, supervision, and evaluation of nursing practices, policies, and procedures
- Engage in the supervision and teaching of nursing
- Observe, assess, intervene, evaluate, care and counsel a person who is ill, injured, infirmed, or experiencing a change in normal health processes
- Collaborate with clients, their families, and other healthcare professionals in the interest of the client’s health
- Develop and maintain plans of care and contribute to existing plans
- Accurately and completely report and document a client’s health condition, client’s response, and interactions of significance with clients, their families, and other healthcare providers as they relate to the client’s health status
- Teach clients and their families how to maintain their health, manage illnesses or injuries, and prevent illness or injury.
- Implement measures to promote a safe environment for client and others which include measures that prevent exposure to infectious pathogens and communicable conditions
- Clarify any order or treatment regimen that the nurse has reason to believe is inaccurate, non-efficacious or contraindicated by consulting with the appropriate licensed practitioner and notifying the ordering practitioner when the nurse makes the decision not to administer the medication or treatment
- Operate and monitor healthcare technologies and medical equipment utilized in the practice of nursing
- Perform diagnostic tests and analyze results
- Administer medications and treatments
  Institute appropriate nursing interventions that might be required to stabilize a client's condition and/or prevent complications
- Consult with, utilize, and make referrals to appropriate community agencies and health care resources to provide continuity of care
- Maintain continual competency in nursing practice and individual professional growth