

ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 610-X-6
STANDARDS OF NURSING PRACTICE

610-X-6-.03 Standards For Conduct And Accountability.

The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall:

- (1) Have knowledge and understanding of the laws and rules regulating nursing.
- (2) Function within the legal scope of nursing practice.
- (3) Obtain instruction and supervision as necessary, when implementing new or unfamiliar nursing techniques or practices.
- (4) Be responsible and accountable for the quality of nursing care delivered to patients, based on and limited to scope of education, demonstrated competence, and nursing experience.
- (5) Be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the quality of patient care delivered by personnel under the individual nurse's supervision.
- (6) Be responsible and accountable for the delegation of selected nursing activities in selected situations to unlicensed individuals.
- (7) Accept individual responsibility and accountability for judgments, actions, and nursing competency, remaining current with technology and practicing consistent with facility policies and procedures.
- (8) Accept individual responsibility and accountability for recognition and appropriate nursing action following a change in the patient's mental or physical status.
- (9) Practice in compliance with current CDC Standard Precautions and Infection Control, including aseptic technique.
- (10) Practice without discrimination on the basis of age, race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, patient diagnosis, or disability.
- (11) Respect the dignity and rights of patients and their significant others, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Privacy.
 - (b) Safety.
 - (c) Protection of confidential information, unless disclosure is required by law.
 - (d) Freedom from exploitation of physical, mental, sexual, or financial boundaries.
 - (e) Protection of real and personal property.
 - (f) Behavior that is therapeutic and places the patient's interests before the nurse's interests.
- (12) Collaborate with other members of the health care team.
- (13) Accept individual responsibility and accountability to avoid personal disruptive behaviors that negatively impact patient care and the nursing profession.
- (14) Accept individual responsibility and accountability for timely reporting of illegal, substandard, unethical, unsafe, or incompetent nursing practice directly to the Board of Nursing.
- (15) Accept individual responsibility and accountability for accurate, complete, and legible documentation related to:
- (a) Patient care records.
 - (b) Health care employment.
 - (c) Licensure and other credentials.
 - (d) Continuing education records.
- (16) Accept individual responsibility and accountability for the assignment of tasks to others.
- (17) Accept individual responsibility and accountability for proper delegation of nursing care activities to other health care workers.
- (18) Assess individual competency when assigning selected components of nursing care to other health care workers, including, but not limited to:
- (a) Knowledge, skills, and experience.
 - (b) Complexity of assigned tasks.
 - (c) Health status of the patient.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing.

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-21-2(c)(21), 34-21-25(b).

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