

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE TITLE DEFINITION

I. DEFINITION

These technical positions are responsible for working directly with patients and families in providing treatments and observations. Positions, after receiving an in-service course, may pass prescribed oral medications. Positions work under the supervision of a registered nurse in routine nursing situations and as an assistant to the registered nurse in complex situations. The work is characterized by the technical knowledge of patient care, treatments, and medications required. Employees are expected to meet specific technical nursing requirements as directed by a registered nurse and to make critical observations of patients in complex nursing situations. Work is performed under general supervision.

Responsibilities include: providing technical nursing care for patients, such as giving baths, taking care of skin, hair, and nails; providing comfort measures for rest, sleep, excretory needs, and diversional needs; determining appropriate positioning and ambulating; and monitoring the patient's environment; measuring, administering, and recording oral medications as directed and watch for specific reactions; performing selected technical nursing procedures and treatments such as nasogastric tube feedings, catheterizations, irrigations, changing sterile dressings, suctioning, applying oxygen, and suture line care; observing, reporting and charting patients progress, signs and symptoms, treatments, responses, attitudes, and vital signs; preparing operating rooms for minor surgical procedures and treatments and may function as a surgical scrub assistant; assisting physicians in examinations, treatments, and surgical procedures; assisting registered nurse with the care of critically ill and other complex cases and report observations; assisting with preoperative care and providing postoperative care for patients returning from surgery; assisting with patient teaching when plan is structured and can be segmented; participating in planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing care plans and nursing care being provided; providing bedside care and observing patients in intensive treatment units; assisting patients with temporary or permanently disabling conditions to participate in daily living activities; providing detailed observations of the patient's mental and physical condition, and providing technical nursing procedures required to overcome deficiencies; and using effective communication skills in work with patients, families, and other team members.

II. QUALIFICATIONS

Registration as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Wisconsin is required.

III. RELATED TITLES

Nurse Clinician
Nursing Assistant