

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Practice Decision

Complementary therapies have been used in the holistic model of nursing which incorporates a philosophy of nursing practice that involves recognition of the individual as an integrated whole interacting with and being acted upon by both internal and external environments.

The Nevada State Board of Nursing finds that it is within the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse to utilize complementary therapies to meet nursing and client goals developed through the nursing process.

Nurses may employ complementary therapies as part of an overall plan of nursing care under the following guidelines:

1. The nurse has the documented competence, knowledge, skill and ability in application of the therapy per NAC 632.224, 632.225, 632.071 and 632.242.
2. The nurse must follow the accepted standard of care which would be provided by a reasonable and prudent nurse. Utilization of a complementary therapy must include an evaluation as to whether the therapy is simple (non-invasive, minimal intervention, non-chemical, minimal risk of harm) or complex (invasive, chemical, physical, medications, maximum harm). For purposes of this advisory opinion, the use of herbal medicines, recommendations of megadoses of vitamins and any other complex therapy is not considered within the scope of practice for nurses at this time.
3. Clients have granted informed consent. In obtaining informed consent for a nursing intervention, the nurse shall provide the patient/client/family with the nature and consequences of any procedure, the reasonable risks (if any), possible side effects, benefits and purposes of the procedure and any alternative procedures available.
4. A nurse may not use any complementary therapy that is otherwise unlawful or that requires licensure or certification by another regulatory body unless the applicable laws have been met. The use of complementary therapies does not authorize the licensee nurse to diagnose or prescribe.

Approved by the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee on July 21, 1999

Adopted by the Nevada State Board of Nursing on September 17, 1999