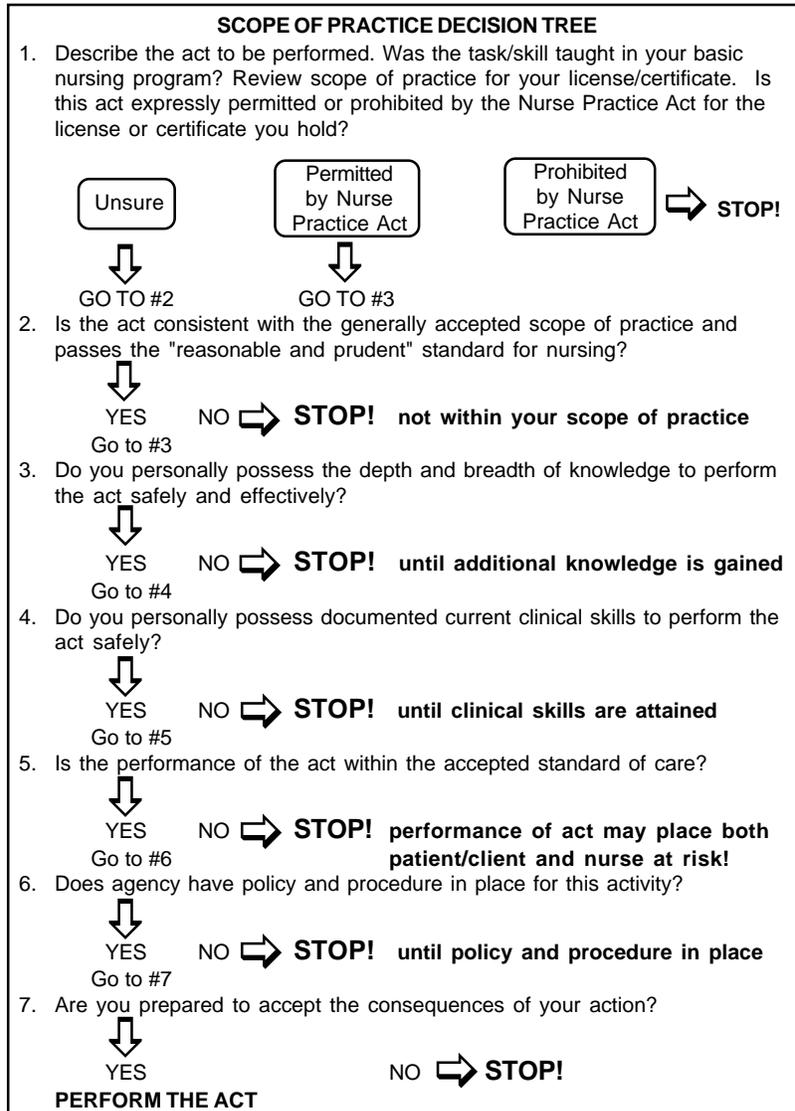


DETERMINING YOUR SCOPE OF PRACTICE
(Revised 8-6-02)

The Board of Nursing has been diligently working to empower Nevada nurses regarding determining their own scope of practice. The Board's mission is the regulation of nursing practice in Nevada; this regulation does not mean dictating how individual nurses and nursing facilities should carry out that practice, but whether or not that practice meets the standards established by the Nurse Practice Act. Using the following guidelines and algorithm, the Chief Nurse may decide what is within scope, document that for individual nurses, and provide policies and procedures to reflect that practice. For individual nurses, the responsibility is to make certain the Chief Nurse has authorized the practice and that it is documented in policies and procedures.



If you are unable to determine whether the task/skill is within your scope of practice:

- Has the Nevada State Board of Nursing made a practice decision regarding the task/skill in question? (See "Nursing Practice Decisions" in this section.)
- Is the task/skill in your hiring agency policy and procedure manual? (NAC 632.225 or 242)
- Is your competency in performing this task/skill documented in your personnel file?
- Does carrying out the duty pass the "Reasonable and Prudent" standard for nursing?
- Is the action reflective of the consumer's desires and is it appropriately authorized?

If you cannot answer "yes" to the above, and if no practice decision exists, use the Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) process as described in Nurse Practice Regulations NAC 632.225, subsection 3, for Registered Nurses; and for Licensed Practical Nurses, NAC 632.242, subsection 3.

If the task is not addressed in CINAHL, you may request a Board Practice Decision by obtaining the proper forms from a Board office, doing the research using criteria provided by the Board, and submitting 12 copies of your results for review and consideration by the Board's Nursing Practice Advisory Committee. After the Committee makes a recommendation, the Board's conclusion will be relayed to the requester following the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.