

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

The Role of the RN and LPN in Complementary Therapies/Modalities Practice Decision

The Board of Nursing acknowledges the prevalence of alternative and complementary therapies/modalities offered in traditional healthcare settings and the number of nurses seeking to incorporate complementary care into their nursing practice. Complementary therapies/modalities 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/modalities to meet nursing and client goals developed through the nursing process.

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

1. The nurse has the documented knowledge, skill, and competency necessary to carry out the therapy/modality in a safe manner per [NAC 632.224](#), [632.225](#), [632.071](#) and [632.242](#). The nurse is accountable to maintain clinical competence in the complementary therapy/modality including awareness of current research and literature.
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/modality 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). The use of herbal medicines, recommendations of mega doses of vitamins and any other complex therapy/modality is not considered within the scope of practice for nurses.
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. Any state or local laws which require licensure to perform the complementary therapy/modality must be followed. For example, massage may be utilized as a nursing care intervention, but a massage license is required to offer, provide, or practice massage in a broader content. The use of complementary therapies/modalities does not authorize the licensed nurse to diagnose or prescribe.

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

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