

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Practice Decision

Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) delegation of the emptying, measuring, and recording output from a Hemovac and/or Jackson-Pratt surgical drain to a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

The Nevada State Board of Nursing finds that a RN or LPN may delegate the emptying, measuring, and recording of output from a Hemovac and/or Jackson-Pratt surgical drain to a CNA who has documented training and competency evaluations according to National Council of State Boards of Nursing (2022), and the organization's policy and procedure to perform the task. A decision tree for delegation to the CNA follows.

Rationale:

It is the opinion of the Nevada State Board of Nursing that CNAs may perform tasks that are beyond those listed in the CNA Skills Guidelines if they complete additional training and have documented competencies, as long as the task is assigned according to [NAC 632.222](#) by an RN. Supervision requires the RN to ascertain that the task:

- Is considered safe and routine for a specific client
- Poses little potential hazard for the client
- Can be performed with predictable outcomes
- Does not require assessment, interpretation, or decision-making while performed
- Involves a limited degree of potential client discomfort, and
- Does not require a substantial amount of scientific knowledge and technical skill

The CNA May Not manipulate, strip or attempt to clear any occlusion in the drain tubing. The CNA must inform the delegating RN/LPN the presence of any possible occlusion or change in drainage color or clarity.

Most importantly, the RN always maintains accountability for the overall provision of nursing practice, being responsible for the ongoing supervision and evaluation of the assigned task following the acceptable standard of care as provided by a professional nurse.

Interest to the Consumer:

There is limited literature about this practice; however, under appropriate conditions, family members are taught to perform this task at home (Cleveland Clinic, 2019; Johns Hopkins

Medicine, 2022). Therefore, the RN may delegate the task to the CNA who has been trained in employing facility and passed competency for the skill.

References

Cleveland Clinic (2019). How to care for your Jackson-Pratt drain. Retrieved September 8, 2022, from <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/21104-how-to-care-for-your-jackson-pratt-drain>

Johns Hopkins Medicine (2022). Discharge instructions: Caring for your Jackson-Pratt drainage tube. Retrieved September 8, 2022, from <https://johnshopkinsibportal.staywellsolutionsonline.com/Library/Encyclopedia/3,86496>

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (2022). National guidelines for nursing delegation. Retrieved September 8, 2022, from https://www.ncsbn.org/NCSBN_Delegation_Guidelines.pdf

North Carolina Board of Nursing (n.d.). Decision tree for delegation to UAP. Retrieved September 8, 2022, from <https://www.ncbon.com/vdownloads/position-statements-decision-trees/decision-tree-delegation-to-uap.pdf>

Certified Nursing Assistant Advisory Committee review: August 2, 2007 & January 5, 2023

Nursing Practice Advisory Committee proposed revisions October 4, 2022 & December 6, 2022

Licensed Practical Nursing Advisory Committee review December 22, 2022

Approved by the Nevada State Board of Nursing: September 13, 2007

Approval of 2023 revisions by the Nevada State Board of Nursing: January 18, 2023