

Scope: who may do what

Role	May do	May not do
RN	Whole nursing process (ADPIE); initial assessment, care planning, initial teaching, evaluation, unstable/complex clients	— accountability never transfers
LPN/LVN	Stable clients with predictable outcomes; routine meds (PO, SubQ, IM), wound care, trach suctioning, catheter insertion, reinforce teaching	Initial teaching, admit/discharge, unstable or new clients
UAP	ADLs (bathe, feed, toilet, reposition), routine vitals, I&O, transport, ambulate, non-invasive specimens	Assess, interpret, or teach — ever

- ✓ **Mnemonic** — the RN never delegates what you can **EAT**: Evaluation, Assessment, Teaching
- ✓ **LPN IV push/IVPB authority varies** by state and facility policy
- ✓ **UAPs get a task only while the client is stable and predictable.** If the condition changes, the Right Circumstance fails and the RN takes over

Five rights of delegation

- ✓ **Right task** — routine, predictable, no nursing judgment required
- ✓ **Right circumstance** — safe in one context can be unsafe in another (ambulate stable COPD: yes; same client desaturating at 82%: RN)
- ✓ **Right person** — verify scope first, then competence
- ✓ **Right direction and communication** — specific and measurable, with reporting parameters. “Report if systolic < 100,” never “tell me if it’s bad”
- ✓ **Right supervision and evaluation** — follow up, evaluate the outcome, intervene if care is unsafe

Collaboration and referrals

- ✓ **SBAR** — Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation. Read back verbal and telephone orders
- ✓ **Refer to:**
 - **Dietitian** — malnutrition, dysphagia, new diabetes
 - **PT** — stroke, hip fracture, post-op mobility
 - **OT** — ADLs
 - **SLP** — dysphagia, post-stroke communication
 - **Social work/case management** — discharge planning, abuse, homelessness
 - **Pharmacist** — polypharmacy
 - **Hospice/palliative** — end-of-life symptom management
- ✓ **Interdisciplinary** = different specialties;
intradisciplinary = same specialty (physician + PA)
- ✓ The nurse does not place a consult and move on — coordination continues until the issue is resolved