

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

PRACTICE DECISION REGARDING RN ASSIGNMENT OF THE EMPTYING, MEASURING, AND RECORDING OUTPUT FROM A HEMOVAC AND/OR A JACKSON-PRATT SURGICAL DRAIN TO A CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

The Nevada State Board of Nursing finds that an RN may choose to assign the emptying, measuring, and recording output from a hemovac and/or a Jackson-Pratt surgical drain to a CNA who has documented training and competency to perform the task.

Rationale:

It is the opinion of the Nevada State Board of Nursing that CNA's may perform tasks which 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 pursuant to NAC 632.222 by a licensed professional nurse. Supervision required the RN to ascertain that the task:

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

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 accepted standard of care that would be provided by a reasonable and prudent nurse.

Interest to the Consumer:

In review of the limited literature regarding this practice, there is evidence that assignment of this task, under appropriate conditions, can be done safely. The NSBN recognizes that RNs need to work effectively with assistive personnel, underscoring the critical competencies of their abilities to assign and supervise. The RN assigns tasks based on the needs and condition of the patient, potential for harm, stability of the patient's condition, complexity of the task, predictability of the outcomes, abilities of the staff to whom the task is assigned, and the context of other patient needs.

Certified Nursing Assistant Advisory Committee review: August 2, 2007
Approved by the Nevada State Board of Nursing: September 13, 2007