Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-Making Framework

Identify, describe or clarify the activity, intervention or role under consideration.

Is the activity, intervention or role prohibited by the Nurse Practice Act and rules/regulations or any other applicable laws, rules/regulations or accreditation standards or professional nursing scope and standards?  
[YES]  
[NO]  

STOP

Is performing the activity, intervention or role consistent with evidence-based nursing and health care literature?  
[YES]  
[NO]  

STOP

Are there practice setting policies and procedures in place to support performing the activity, intervention or role?  
[YES]  
[NO]  

STOP

Has the nurse completed the necessary education to safely perform the activity, intervention or role?  
[YES]  
[NO]  

STOP

Is there documented evidence of the nurse’s current competence (knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgments) to safely perform the activity, intervention or role?  
[YES]  
[NO]  

STOP

Does the nurse have the appropriate resources to perform the activity, intervention or role in the practice setting?  
[YES]  
[NO]  

STOP

Would a reasonable and prudent nurse perform the activity, intervention or role in this setting?  
[YES]  
[NO]  

STOP

Is the nurse prepared to accept accountability for the activity, intervention or role and for the related outcomes?  
[YES]  
[NO]  

STOP

The nurse may perform the activity, intervention or role to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care.

These decision-making framework guidelines are for educational purposes only. The guidelines do not purport to establish a standard of care or advise a course of action for patient care in any particular situation.