

610-X-6-.15 Alabama Department of Mental Health Residential Community Programs

(1) The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse who provides care in residential community mental health programs certified by the Alabama Department of Mental Health is accountable and responsible for the nursing care delivered to patients in those settings.

(2) Registered nurses or licensed practical nurse who provide nursing care in the residential community mental health setting, and the community extensions including day habilitation programs, may delegate specific limited tasks to designated unlicensed assistive personnel.

(3) The registered nurse is accountable for determining the tasks that may be safely performed by the unlicensed assistive personnel in residential community mental health settings following appropriate training and demonstration of competency.

(4) The specific delegated tasks shall not require the exercise of independent nursing judgment or intervention. Specific tasks that require independent nursing judgment or intervention that shall not be delegated include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Catheterization, clean or sterile.
- (b) Administration of injectable medications, with the exception of injectable medications for anaphylaxis such as the Epi-pen®.
- (c) Calculation of medication dosages other than measuring a prescribed amount of liquid medication or breaking a scored tablet.
- (d) Tracheotomy care, including suctioning.
- (e) Gastric tube insertion, replacement, or feedings.
- (f) Invasive procedures or techniques.
- (g) Sterile procedures.
- (h) Ventilator care.
- (i) Receipt of verbal or telephone orders from a licensed prescriber.

(5) The task of assisting with the delivery of prescribed eye, ear, nose, oral, topical, inhalant, rectal, or vaginal medications may only be delegated to a mental health worker by the registered nurse or licensed practical nurse only when the following conditions are met:

(a) The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse identifies the appropriate individual(s) to assist in providing prescribed medications.

(b) The mental health worker selected by the registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall attend a minimum twenty-four (24) hour course of instruction that includes a curriculum approved by the Board and demonstrated competency to perform the delegated task.

(6) The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall provide periodic and regular evaluation and monitoring of the individual performing the delegated tasks.

(7) The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall routinely and periodically conduct quality monitoring of the tasks performed by the mental health worker, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Training.
- (b) Competency.
- (c) Documentation.
- (d) Error reporting.
- (e) Methods of identification of the right patient, the right task, the right method, and the right quantity at the right time.

(8) The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse delegating the task may, at any time, suspend or withdraw the delegation of specific tasks to mental health worker(s).

(9) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health shall submit a report(s) to the Alabama Board of Nursing in a format specified by the Board upon request.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing.

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-2(c)(21).

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