

Motacki: Nursing Delegation and Management of Patient Care

Chapter 03: Delegation of Nursing Tasks

Test Bank

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following delegations by the RN would require an immediate intervention by the charge RN?
 - a. A UAP checks a diabetic patient's blood glucose level.
 - b. An LPN assesses a patient after a fall.
 - c. The charge nurse makes changes to the assignments after staff is "pulled" to another area.
 - d. An RN assists with administering medication to another nurse's patients during a code.

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.
B	It is not within the scope of practice of the LPN to assess an unstable patient and thus it would require an immediate intervention. Only RNs can assess an unstable patient.
C	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.
D	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

2. Which of the following delegations by the RN would require an immediate intervention by the charge RN?
 - a. An LPN administers IVP Lasix (furosemide) to a patient in heart failure.
 - b. An RN administers IVP Lasix (furosemide) to a patient in heart failure.
 - c. An LPN obtains a blood glucose level on a diabetic patient.
 - d. An RN obtains a blood glucose level on a diabetic patient.

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	It is not within the scope of practice for LPNs to administer IV medication and therefore would require an intervention.
B	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.
C	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.
D	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

3. Which of the following delegations require an immediate intervention by the charge RN?

- a. A UAP ambulates a patient 24 hours after a cardiac catheterization.
- b. A UAP ambulates a patient 24 hours after a bronchoscopy.
- c. A UAP ambulates a patient 24 hours after a pneumonectomy.
- d. A UAP ambulates a patient 24 hours after an echocardiogram.

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.
B	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.
C	Ambulation for the first time after major surgery requires an assessment by an RN and thus this would require an intervention.
D	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

4. Which of the following delegations by the RN would require an immediate intervention by the charge RN?
- a. A UAP removes the wrist restraints on a patient and provides ROM exercises when giving a bath.
 - b. An LPN assists a patient back to bed from the bathroom.
 - c. A UAP replaces the monitor electrodes on a patient after he has taken a shower.
 - d. An LPN assesses LOC on a stable patient 3 days after surgery.

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.
B	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.
C	Replacement of electrodes requires an assessment and is not within the scope of practice of the UAP and would require an intervention.
D	This is an appropriate delegation and therefore does not require intervention.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

5. A UAP is asked to take a patient's temperature every 4 hours and report that temperature to the RN. Which best demonstrates the correct interpretation of *right communication*?
- a. The UAP takes the temperature for the patient every 4 hours.
 - b. The UAP charts the temperature for the patient every 4 hours.
 - c. The UAP reports that the patient has been afebrile all day.
 - d. The UAP reports the temperature for the patient every 4 hours.

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	Demonstrates an incorrect interpretation of the delegation.
B	Demonstrates an incorrect interpretation of the delegation.
C	Demonstrates an incorrect interpretation of the delegation.

D	The UAP has correctly interpreted the delegation and has appropriately acted.
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DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

6. A patient turns his call light on and states, "I'm having trouble breathing." Which team members should be delegated to respond to this call light?
- RN
 - LPN
 - Senior student nurse
 - UAP

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	Correct delegation is the RN because this patient requires an assessment to determine the cause of his difficulty breathing and the appropriate action for the nurse to take.
B	It is not within the staff member's scope of practice to assess unstable patients.
C	It is not within the staff member's scope of practice to assess unstable patients.
D	It is not within the staff member's scope of practice to assess unstable patients.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

7. A patient turns his call light on and requests someone to help him ambulate. The senior student nurse has been caring for this patient for 2 days but has only helped him to a chair in the past. Which instructions should be given to the student prior to ambulation of the patient?
- "The patient has been ambulated before but still requires some assistance."
 - "The patient has been ambulated before but is only able to walk with supervision and a walker."
 - "The patient is only able to walk with a walker for the length of the hallway."
 - "The patient has been ambulated before using a walker but needs his oxygen saturation checked if he complains of SOB (shortness of breath)."

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	Does not include specifics regarding adverse effects of the task or what should be done if they occur.
B	Does not include specifics regarding adverse effects of the task or what should be done if they occur.
C	Does not include specifics regarding adverse effects of the task or what should be done if they occur.
D	Proper delegation includes specifics about the task and the possible adverse effects and what to do about them should they occur. This answer provides all of the components for good delegation.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

8. The charge nurse in the ICU receives a call from the ED. They have three patients who require a bed. Which patient should be transferred first?
- A patient admitted with an acute MI who is in the cardiac catheterization lab now for an intervention
 - A patient admitted with an acute MI and a history of CABG on a nitroglycerin drip to manage ischemic pain and tissue perfusion
 - A patient in sickle cell crisis with a PCA pump to manage his pain
 - A patient in DKA for new-onset diabetes mellitus

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Although the patient requires assessments once on the unit, he or she is currently stable and can wait until a bed is available.
B	This patient is the least stable and will require the most assessment due to titration of the nitroglycerin drip.
C	Although the patient requires assessments once on the unit, he or she is currently stable and can wait until a bed is available.
D	Although the patient requires assessments once on the unit, he or she is currently stable and can wait until a bed is available.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

9. The nurse and UAP are working together with four patients. Which patient should the nurse assign the UAP?
- A patient waiting for discharge instructions before going home
 - A patient who received morphine 20 minutes ago and now has the call light on
 - A patient with diabetes who needs her blood glucose checked
 - A patient returning from a bronchoscopy

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	This patient requires assessment and therefore cannot be delegated to the UAP until stability is assessed.
B	This patient requires assessment and therefore cannot be delegated to the UAP until stability is assessed.
C	It is within the UAP's scope of practice to check blood glucose levels on a diabetic patient.
D	This patient requires assessment and therefore cannot be delegated to the UAP until stability is assessed.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

10. When incorporating the five rights of delegation, the *right person* is being used in which of the following situations?
- The LPN initiates TPN to a patient as ordered.

- b. The charge nurse designates a UAP to “float” to another unit.
- c. The staff nurse trades weekends with another staff nurse.
- d. The UAP assists a patient to the bathroom after an echocardiogram.

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	This is an inappropriate delegation. It is not within the LPN's scope of practice to manage IV therapy.
B	This is not a delegation of a task and is merely a function of the position of the charge nurse.
C	This is not a delegation.
D	It is within the UAP's scope of practice to assist patients to the bathroom as long as the patient is stable in performing that action.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

11. When incorporating the five rights of delegation, the *right supervision* is used in which of the following situations?
- a. The RN assesses a patient after the UAP reports a blood glucose level of 56 mg/dL.
 - b. The RN administers orange juice to a patient reported by the UAP to have a blood glucose level of 56 mg/dL.
 - c. The RN holds the morning insulin on a patient reported by the UAP to have a blood glucose level of 56 mg/dL.
 - d. The RN administers the morning insulin after assessing a patient reported by the UAP to have a blood glucose level of 56 mg/dL.

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	The UAP reports a low blood glucose level. The RN must check the patient's response to that glucose level and may need to repeat the measurement if the patient's assessment does not correlate with the low level, and thus the RN is supervising the performance of the UAP in that task.
B	This would be an inappropriate action without first assessing the patient's response and therefore accuracy of the glucose level obtained.
C	This would be an inappropriate action without first assessing the patient's response and therefore accuracy of the glucose level obtained.
D	This would put the patient at risk for severe hypoglycemia if the blood glucose level is accurate. The RN should assess the patient and the accuracy of the reported glucose level. If the glucose level is as stated, the appropriate action by the RN would be to hold the insulin until the blood glucose is at an appropriate level.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

12. When incorporating the five rights of delegation, the *right communication* is used when a patient's blood pressure is low in which of the following situations?
- The RN tells the UAP to wait to give a patient a bath because her blood pressure is too low.
 - The RN tells a UAP to recheck the patient's blood pressure and report back to her before giving the patient a bath.
 - The UAP gives a bath to a patient with a low blood pressure.
 - The RN tells the UAP to give a patient a bath because they are unaware of the low blood pressure.

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	This might ensure the safety of the patient for the moment but should be followed up and the blood pressure measurement repeated.
B	Rechecking the blood pressure is the appropriate communication to ensure the safety of the patient.
C	This could put the patient at risk because of the blood pressure. The RN has not communicated appropriately.
D	This is completely inappropriate and places the patient at risk.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

13. When incorporating the five rights of delegation, the *right task* is used in which situation?
- The UAP reinforces use of the incentive spirometer to a patient.
 - The UAP teaches the patient to use the incentive spirometer.
 - The UAP listens to breath sounds to encourage the patient to use the incentive spirometer.
 - The UAP is not allowed to work with the patient regarding use of the incentive spirometer.

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	Although the UAP is not allowed to teach the patient about the use of the incentive spirometer, it is within his or her scope of practice to reinforce that teaching. Only the RN can teach the patient how to use the incentive spirometer.
B	The UAP may not teach patients.
C	UAPs may not assess. Only the RN has that responsibility.
D	The UAP may reinforce use of the incentive spirometer.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

14. When incorporating the five rights of delegation, the *right circumstance* is used in which of the following situations?
- The RN asks the UAP to draw a prothrombin time on a patient on a heparin drip.
 - The RN asks the UAP to draw blood on a patient with bilateral upper extremity lymphedema.

- c. The RN asks the UAP to draw blood on a newly admitted patient with pneumonia.
- d. The RN asks a new UAP to draw blood on a patient known to be a “hard stick.”

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	The prothrombin time blood sample should not be obtained from the arm in which the heparin is running and the UAP is not qualified to know that.
B	The site for blood draws in this patient would need to be carefully chosen by only an RN to protect the patient from injury.
C	It is within the UAP’s scope of practice to draw blood (if allowed in the institution) from patients without IV issues.
D	This is inappropriate delegation; the RN should draw this patient’s blood.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

15. After receiving the shift report, which of the following requires a priority action by the nurse?
- a. Discontinue an IV line from an insertion site that appears red and at which the patient complains of pain.
 - b. Make assignments for the team.
 - c. Talk to a patient who has changed his mind about having a procedure today.
 - d. Round on all the patients on their team.

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	Patient safety is a priority.
B	This is not a priority for patient safety.
C	This is not a priority for patient safety.
D	This is not a priority for patient safety.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

16. Which of the following patients should the nurse see first after the shift report?
- a. A patient with a change in heart rhythm who is complaining of lightheadedness
 - b. A patient with a newly placed pacemaker who is complaining of shoulder pain
 - c. A patient in heart failure on afterload reducers with a blood pressure 96/60 mm Hg
 - d. A patient in first-degree heart block

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	The patient has complained of lightheadedness and his cardiac monitor shows an increase in heart rate. A change in heart rhythm requires a nursing assessment.
B	The complaint is predictable and is not a priority.
C	The complaint is predictable and is not a priority.
D	The patient is stable and is not a priority.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

17. The nurse is working on a medical unit with an LPN and UAP as the team members. Which tasks should the RN delegate to the LPN?
- Vital signs on a patient about to arrive from the cardiac catheterization lab
 - Regulation of a patient's heparin drip based on the heparin nomogram
 - Regulation of a patient's nitroglycerin drip based on the level of pain
 - Administration of all oral medications for the team

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	The patient requires the RN's assessment skills.
B	The patient requires the RN's assessment skills.
C	The patient requires the RN's assessment skills.
D	It is within the LPN's scope of practice to administer oral medications.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

18. The nurse is working on a medical unit with an LPN and UAP as the team members. Which tasks should the RN delegate to the UAP?
- Vital signs on all patients admitted on the previous shift
 - Vital signs on a patient being transferred from the ED
 - Vital signs on a patient being transferred from the ICU
 - Vital signs on a newly admitted stable patient

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	It is within the scope of practice for the UAP to take vital signs on stable, predictable patients.
B	Only the RN can make this initial assessment.
C	Only the RN can make this initial assessment.
D	Only the RN can make this initial assessment.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

19. The nurse is working on a medical unit with an LPN and a UAP as the team members. Which tasks should the RN complete?
- Assignments of new admissions to staff
 - Regulation of heparin drip based on the heparin nomogram
 - Vital signs on patients admitted on previous shift
 - Dressing change for a patient 4 days post I&D of a pacemaker wound

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Should be performed by the charge nurse.

B	Only the RN is allowed to titrate IV medications because assessment is required.
C	Task can be appropriately delegated to the UAP.
D	Task can be appropriately delegated to the LPN.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

20. The nurse is working on a medical unit with an LPN and UAP as the team members. Which tasks should the RN complete?
- Vital signs on a patient admitted from the ED
 - Turning a patient who had a CVA 4 days ago
 - Feeding a patient requiring assistance
 - Recording the I&O on a patient on strict fluid restrictions

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	This patient requires an initial assessment, for which only the RN can be responsible.
B	This can be delegated.
C	This can be delegated.
D	This can be delegated.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

21. An agency nurse is assigned to the thoracic surgery postoperative nursing unit. Which of the following would be the best action by the charge nurse?
- Call the agency to determine her level of experience.
 - Assign the nurse to patients ready for discharge.
 - Assign her to pass medications only.
 - Ask the nurse about her level of experience.

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	This is unnecessary. Asking the RN will provide the information necessary to determine the assignment.
B	This is unnecessary. Asking the RN will provide the information necessary to determine the assignment.
C	This is unnecessary. Asking the RN will provide the information necessary to determine the assignment.
D	Assignments are made based on the nurse's knowledge and skills and the agency nurse should be asked about her experience and background.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

22. Which action by a UAP requires an immediate intervention by the nurse?
- Application of a skin barrier/protection ointment
 - Releasing wrist restraints on a patient to allow ROM

- c. Assisting a patient to the bedside commode
- d. Obtaining a urine culture from a patient

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	These products are medications and even topical medications are not allowed under the UAP's scope of practice, and thus this requires an intervention.
B	This is within the scope of practice of the UAP and does not require an intervention.
C	This is within the scope of practice of the UAP and does not require an intervention.
D	This is within the scope of practice of the UAP and does not require an intervention.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

23. Which action by a UAP requires an immediate intervention by the nurse?
- a. Encouraging a patient to use the incentive spirometer
 - b. Encouraging a patient to ambulate 2 days after surgery
 - c. Checking the pH of the gastric aspirate of a patient receiving tube feedings
 - d. Informing the RN that a patient requests a pain medication

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	This is within the scope of practice of the UAP and does not require an intervention.
B	This is within the scope of practice of the UAP and does not require an intervention.
C	This action requires an assessment and is not within the scope of practice of the UAP and thus requires an intervention.
D	This is within the scope of practice of the UAP and does not require an intervention.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

24. Which patients on an orthopedic unit should be assigned to a nurse from a cardiac unit?
- a. A patient being transferred to an ECF for rehabilitation following a hip replacement
 - b. A patient following a hip replacement with a history of an acute MI 4 weeks ago
 - c. A patient with an external fixator
 - d. A patient to be started on a PCA pump requiring instructions

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	This assignment is not appropriate given this nurse's background and

	knowledge.
B	With the RN's knowledge and background for caring for cardiac patients, it is most appropriate to assign her to this patient because of the potential for cardiac issues to arise postoperatively.
C	This assignment is not appropriate given this nurse's background and knowledge.
D	This assignment is not appropriate given this nurse's background and knowledge.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

25. Which actions by the UAP would require immediate follow-up by the nurse?
- Informing the nurse she was taking a break
 - Taking her lunch break on her home floor after being pulled to another floor
 - Asking the patient to let her know the next time he has a bowel movement
 - Asking another UAP to obtain a urine sample for her

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	This is an appropriate action by the UAP and does not require intervention.
B	This is an appropriate action by the UAP and does not require intervention.
C	This is an appropriate action by the UAP and does not require intervention.
D	It is not within the scope of practice for the UAP to delegate any tasks and would require an intervention.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

26. A nurse must delegate some responsibilities of the care of patients on a particularly busy and chaotic day to the LPN and UAP team members. Which of the following can be appropriately delegated to the LPN?
- Assisting with a central line insertion
 - Giving bath supplies to patients who are capable of bathing themselves
 - Rechecking the blood pressure on a patient who is having episodes of bigeminy and ventricular tachycardia
 - Transporting a patient in a wheelchair for discharge

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	The LPN has been trained to assist the health care provider with complicated procedures.
B	The assignment can be delegated to the UAP.
C	This patient is unstable and requires an RN's assessment.
D	The assignment can be delegated to the UAP.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

27. Which statement made by the clinical instructor would represent feedback to a student nurse?
- “Explain to me the actions of this medication before you give it.”
 - “Can you explain to me why Mr. W. did not receive a bath this morning?”
 - “Stop the urinary catheter insertion now. You have contaminated the catheter.”
 - “You need to use your critical thinking skills when caring for patients.”

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	Confrontational but does not provide feedback.
B	Confrontational but does not provide feedback.
C	Confrontational but does not provide feedback.
D	Although this may not be the most appropriate feedback, it does give the student feedback on his clinical performance.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

28. A nurse assesses a patient reported to have normal vital signs throughout the night and finds the patient in acute respiratory distress. What is the nurse's next best action?
- Delegate vital signs to the UAP.
 - Ask another nurse to call the health care provider.
 - Call a code.
 - Start another peripheral IV line.

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Not appropriate.
B	The nurse should stay with the patient and obtain vital signs, further assessing the patient for changes.
C	Not appropriate.
D	Not appropriate.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

29. Which order should be considered to have the highest priority when delivering care to a patient?
- Albuterol treatment for a patient complaining of shortness of breath
 - IV diuretic for a patient in heart failure
 - Sliding-scale short-acting insulin
 - Antihypertensive for a patient admitted with negative cardiac enzymes

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	The patient's respiratory status has changed, so ABCs should be used to determine the highest priority medication administration.

B	Patient is not at risk for loss of airway.
C	Patient is not at risk for loss of airway.
D	Patient is not at risk for loss of airway.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

30. Which delegation should a UAP consider to have the highest priority?
- Obtaining a routine blood glucose level from a patient with diabetes
 - Giving a bath to a patient scheduled for a colonoscopy
 - Feeding a patient who needs assistance doing so.
 - Helping an elderly patient to the bathroom

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	Does not take priority over the elderly patient needing to use the bathroom.
B	Does not take priority over the elderly patient needing to use the bathroom.
C	Does not take priority over the elderly patient needing to use the bathroom.
D	Elderly patients frequently need to get to the bathroom quickly, and if no assistance is provided, they may fall in an attempt to make it there by themselves.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis