

Protecting Yourself from Malpractice Claims



- Documents the patient's response to the nursing plan of care or the medication or treatment.
- Contributes to the revision of the nursing plan of care.
- Contributes to the evaluation of the patient's response to the plan of care through documentation and verbal communication with other members of the health care team.

LPN IV Therapy

This chapter defines terms, IV therapy procedures IV therapy certified LPNs may perform, and IV therapy procedures that LPNs are prohibited from performing. It also establishes the minimum curriculum requirements for LPNs to obtain their IV therapy certification.

Supervision of Nursing Practice

The supervision of nursing practice is specified within the definition of RN practice, noting that RNs teach, administer, supervise, delegate, and evaluate nursing practice. The LPN is authorized to delegate nursing practice when directed to do so by a RN, to teach a nursing task, and to make observations and provide patient teaching. Regarding the RN supervision of nursing practice, it is the "practice" of nursing that the RN supervises and evaluates, rather than a person's employment performance.

The supervision of nursing practice may include a determination by the RN that a particular nursing intervention is no longer appropriate for a patient and that the nursing regimen should be changed in response to the patient's needs. The RN may base this change on information communicated by the LPN and the RN may further direct the LPN to implement the revised nursing regimen, or the RN may implement the revision him/herself. The supervising RN must be continuously available through some form of telecommunication with the supervised nurse. Although the supervising RN is not required to be on-site on a routine basis to supervise the LPN in all of the nursing practice activities performed by the LPN, the supervising RN is required to take all action necessary, including but not limited to conducting periodic on-site visits, in order to insure the supervised nurse is practicing in accordance with acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care. There are circumstances when onsite supervision by a RN is explicitly required by nursing law and rule. For example, on-site supervision is required in certain environments in which a qualified LPN performs IV therapy.

care professionals determine the patient is not a risk for suicide; eventually the patient is discharged from the health care facility; upon discharge the patient receives discharge counseling, which include medication education; the patient feels comfortable with her medications and continues them after discharge from the health care facility; the patient progresses with her recovery and treatment; the patient contacts her family; the patient and the patient's family are content with the recent health care treatment; medical malpractice litigation is not considered; the patient further progress with her treatment and her health, overall well-being, and quality of life improve.

Are there any other ways the patient's experience in the health care facility could been different if essential elements of care were applied to the patient; if so, what are they?

Conclusion

Medical malpractice may refer to the failure of a health care professional to follow the accepted standards of practice of his or her profession, resulting in harm to a patient.¹ Health care professionals may protect themselves against medical malpractice claims and lawsuits by understanding why they may arise in the first place. Health care professionals may also help prevent medical malpractice claims and lawsuits by following recommendations that were developed to help them prevent medical malpractice litigation. Finally, health care professionals should work in tandem with their health care organizations to promote patient safety and to prevent medical malpractice from occurring.

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