

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
MUNICIPAL
REGULATIONS
For REGISTERED
NURSING**

**CHAPTER 54
REGISTERED NURSING**

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- 5400 GENERAL PROVISIONS**
- 5400.1 This chapter applies to applicants for and holders of a license to practice registered nursing and persons otherwise authorized to practice pursuant to §§ 5411 and 5412. No persons may practice registered nursing in the District unless licensed or otherwise authorized to do so in accordance with this chapter.
- 5400.2 Chapters 40 (General Rules), 41 (Administrative Procedures), and 85 (Licensed, Registered, or Certified Health Professional Criminal Background Checks) of this title shall supplement this chapter.
- 5400.3 An application for license that remains incomplete for ninety (90) days or more from the date of submission shall be considered abandoned and closed by the Board. The applicant whose application was closed pursuant to this subsection and who wishes to obtain a license shall thereafter be required to reapply, comply with the current requirements for licensure, and pay the required fees.
- 5401 TERM OF LICENSE**
- 5401.1 Subject to § 5401.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of June 30 of each even-numbered year.

5401.2 If the Director changes the renewal system pursuant to § 4006.3 of chapter 40 of this title, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of the last day of the month of the birth date of the holder of the license, or other date established by the Director.

5402 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

5402.1 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an applicant for a license shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board in accordance with § 504(n) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.04(n)) of the following:

- (a) That the applicant has successfully completed a nursing education program leading to licensure as a registered nurse which was:
 - (1) Approved by the Board in accordance with Chapter 56 of this title; or
 - (2) Approved by a nursing board in the United States or U.S. territory with standards determined by the Board to be substantially equivalent to the standards in the District in accordance with Chapter 56 of this title; or
- (b) That the applicant has successfully completed a basic nursing education program in Canada leading to licensure as a registered nurse which was approved by a Canadian Provincial nursing board with standards determined by the Board to be substantially equivalent to the standards in the District in accordance with Chapter 56 of this title.

5402.2 An applicant for a license who was previously licensed in any jurisdiction and has not been actively practicing for five (5) or more years shall submit proof of having completed a board-approved refresher course in accordance with D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.04(e-2).

5403 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS EDUCATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

5403.1 An applicant for a license who completed an educational program in a foreign country, which program was not approved in accordance with § 5402.1, shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board of the following:

- (a) That the applicant's education and training are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter and the Act;

- (b) That the applicant successfully completed a credentials evaluation by an organization approved or recognized by the Board; and
- (c) That the applicant has spoken and written competency in English by documenting one of the following:
 - (1) Graduation from a nursing program in a country where English is the native language and English was the only language of instruction through the applicant's inclusive dates of attendance;
 - (2) Successful passage of an English proficiency examination approved by the Board that includes the components of reading, speaking, writing, and listening; or
 - (3) Evidence that the applicant has completed a total of twelve (12) months of full-time employment in the United States during the two (2) years immediately preceding the date of application.

5403.2 An applicant under this section who has practiced nursing in any country other than the United States shall provide information related to their licensure status in the other country.

5403.3 Notwithstanding any other provisions in this chapter, the Board may conduct a current competency review of an applicant under this section who, during the twelve (12) months before the application, has not engaged in the practice of registered nursing either in any country including the United States. The Board may deny licensure to an applicant who cannot establish their current competency to practice registered nursing in a safe and effective manner.

5403.4 If a document required by this chapter is in a language other than English, an applicant shall arrange for its translation into English by a translation service acceptable to the Board and shall submit the translation signed by the translator attesting to its accuracy.

5404 NATIONAL EXAMINATION

5404.1 To qualify for a license, an applicant shall have:

- (a) Completed the educational requirements under § 5402.1 or § 5403.1; and

- (b) Obtained a passing score on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. (NCSBN). The passing score on the NCLEX-RN shall be the passing score established by the NCSBN.

- 5404.2 To apply for a license by examination, an applicant shall submit a completed application on a form approved by the Board.
- 5404.3 An applicant for license by examination shall not be permitted to take the NCLEX-RN unless Board has determined that the applicant meets the qualifications required for a license pursuant to this Chapter and grants the applicant approval to sit for the examination.
- 5404.4 An approval for an applicant to sit for the NCLEX-RN examination granted pursuant to this section shall remain effective for not more than ninety (90) days, unless the Board extends the time period under the following circumstances:
- (a) The declaration of a public emergency or public health emergency; or
 - (b) The applicant's failure to sit for the examination within the required time was for good cause, which includes but is not limited to the following:
 - (1) Serious illness of the applicant or the applicant's immediate family member; or
 - (2) Death of an immediate family member of the applicant.
- 5404.5 An application shall be deemed abandoned and closed if the applicant fails to take or pass the examination within ninety (90) days, or fails to request or obtain an extension under § 5404.4. An applicant whose application has been closed may seek an approval to sit for the examination by submitting a new application and complying with all requirements of this chapter.
- 5404.6 An applicant who has not passed the examination more than twelve (12) months but less than three (3) years after the applicant has either graduated from an approved nursing education program under § 5402, or stopped practicing in a foreign country, shall complete a review course approved by the Board to be approved to sit for the examination.
- 5404.7 An applicant who has not passed the examination more than three (3) years but less than five (5) years after the applicant has either graduated

from an approved nursing education program under § 5402, or stopped practicing in a foreign country, shall complete a review course approved by the Board to be approved to sit for the examination and, upon passing the examination, shall complete a nursing refresher course approved by the Board to be eligible for a license.

5404.8 The Board shall not approve any applicant to sit for NCLEX-RN who has not passed the examination more than five (5) years after their graduation from an approved nursing education program under § 5402, or who has stopped practicing in a foreign country more than five (5) years before the date of the application.

5405 LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

5405.1 Except as provided otherwise in this section, an applicant shall be eligible for licensure by endorsement if the applicant is currently licensed as a registered nurse under the laws of a state or territory of the United States and the following applies:

- (a) The applicant's original licensure in the state or territory was based on their completion of an educational program that meets the requirements of § 5402.1 or § 5403.1, and the applicant's receipt of a passing score on the NCLEX-RN or the State Board Test Pool Examination for Nurses; and
- (b) The applicant's licensure history shows that the applicant has continuously been in good standing in all jurisdictions where the applicant holds or has held a registered nursing license.

5405.2 Notwithstanding the requirement of § 5405.1(b), the Board may issue a license to an applicant who does not meet the requirement of § 5405.1(c) if the Board determines that the District's public interest is served by so doing.

5405.3 If the applicant completed an educational program for registered nursing in a foreign country, and the educational program was not approved in accordance with the requirements set forth in § 5402.1, the applicant shall demonstrate spoken and written competency in English in accordance with § 5403.1(c).

5405.4 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from utilizing other authorized databases to verify an applicant's current licensure standing in other jurisdictions of the U.S. or to review disciplinary records.

5406 RENEWAL OF LICENSE

5406.1 Except as provided in § 5406.4, an applicant for renewal of a license shall have completed, during the two (2) years before the expiration of the license, twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education meeting the requirements of § 5410 and the following:

- (a) Two (2) hours shall be in cultural competency or specialized clinical training focusing on patients or clients who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer in accordance with D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.10 (b)(5); and
- (b) Ten percent (10%) of the total shall be in subjects determined by the Director as public health priorities of the District, which shall be duly published every five (5) years or as deemed necessary.

5406.2 Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.10(b-1)(3), the requirements of D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.10(b)(4) are waived.

5406.3 The Board may periodically conduct an audit of licensees to determine compliance with the continuing education requirements. A licensee who has been selected to participate in an audit shall, within thirty (30) days of receiving the notice of the audit, submit proof of completion of the continuing education required pursuant to § 5406.1.

5406.4 An applicant seeking renewal of the license for the first time after the initial grant of the license shall not be required to complete continuing education. A reinstatement or reactivation of a license shall not constitute an initial grant of a license.

5407 REACTIVATION OF AN INACTIVE LICENSE

5407.1 A licensee holding an inactive license pursuant to § 511 of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11) may apply for reactivation of the license within five (5) years after the last expiration of the license as follows:

- (a) A licensee who has maintained an active and valid license, without any adverse action, encumbrance, or restriction, in another state during the entirety of the inactive period in the District may have their license reactivated upon submission of the following:
 - (1) A complete application on a form prescribed by the Board;
 - (2) The required fee;

- (3) Proof of having completed twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education meeting the requirements of § 5406.1 within the twenty-four (24) months preceding the date of the application; and
 - (4) Proof of licensure and standing in the jurisdiction where the licensee maintained an active license.
- (b) A licensee who does not meet the requirement of paragraph (a) above may have their license reactivated if the Board, after receiving the complete application and fee, determines that the licensee possesses sufficient current competency and fitness to practice safely and effectively in the District. Evidence of sufficient current competency and fitness may include, for example, proof of the following:
- (1) Completion of continuing education;
 - (2) Continued practice of registered nursing outside the United States; or
 - (3) Engagement in any combination of activities that would maintain or promote current competency.

5407.2 In evaluating the current competency of an applicant for reactivation, the Board may require that the applicant complete a Board-approved re-entry program.

5408 REINSTATEMENT OF AN EXPIRED LICENSE

5408.1 A person whose license has been expired for no more than five (5) years may seek reinstatement of the license. A license shall not be eligible for reinstatement if more than five (5) years have elapsed since its expiration.

5408.2 To be eligible for license reinstatement, an applicant shall submit proof of having completed twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education meeting the requirements of § 5406.1 within the two (2) years immediately preceding the application date.

5409 [RESERVED]

5410 APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION

5410.1 The Board, in its discretion, may approve continuing education programs and activities that contribute to the professional growth and competence of the licensee in the practice of registered nursing, are relevant to the

practitioner's area of practice, and meet the other requirements of this section.

5410.2 Continuing education credit may be granted only for programs or activities approved by the Board.

5410.3 To qualify for approval by the Board, a continuing education program shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) It is current in its subject matter;
- (b) It has been developed and taught by qualified individuals; and
- (c) It meets one of the following requirements:
 - (1) It is administered and approved by a registered nurse, nursing organization, or health services organization that is recognized by the Board; or
 - (2) It is approved by a state board of nursing, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, or any other national accrediting body recognized by the Board.

5410.4 A person seeking continuing education credit shall have the burden of verifying whether a program is approved by the Board pursuant to this section prior to enrolling in a program.

5410.5 At the request of a licensee or the sponsor of a continuing education program, the Board may approve the following types of continuing education programs if the program meets the requirements of this section:

- (a) An undergraduate course or graduate course given at an accredited college or university;
- (b) A conference, course, seminar, or workshop;
- (c) An educational course offered through the internet; or
- (d) Other programs which meet the requirements of this section.

5410.6 Except as provided in § 5410.7, completion of fifty (50) minutes of an approved program or activity shall constitute one (1) continuing education credit.

- 5410.7 For approved undergraduate or graduate courses, each semester hour of credit shall constitute fifteen (15) hours of continuing education credit, and each quarter hour of credit shall constitute ten (10) hours of continuing education credit.
- 5410.8 A person seeking continuing education credit shall submit the following documentation or information for each program for which continuing education is claimed on a form prescribed by the Board:
- (a) The name and address of the sponsor or provider of the program;
 - (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the name(s) of the instructor(s);
 - (c) The date(s) on which the licensee attended the program;
 - (d) The hours of credit claimed; and
 - (e) A verification form signed and stamped by the program sponsor.
- 5410.9 The Board may, in its discretion, grant continuing education credits for the following activities:
- (a) Serving as a speaker at an approved continuing education program;
 - (b) Developing a Board-approved course or educational offering;
 - (c) Being the author or editor of a peer-reviewed, published periodical, if the periodical has been published or accepted for publication during the period for which credit is claimed;
 - (d) Obtaining a national nursing certification not previously held;
 - (e) Completion of or participation in a completed qualitative or quantitative research project; or
 - (f) Active participation and attendance in a volunteer leadership position within a regulatory board or national professional association.
- 5410.10 Continuing education credits for activities under § 5410.9 shall be subject to the following limitations:
- (a) The activity for which credit is granted shall occur or be completed during the period for which the credit is sought;

- (b) Credits granted under § 5410.9(a) may be granted for both presentation time and preparation time. Credits for preparation shall not exceed twice the amount of presentation time; and
- (c) Credits granted under § 5410.9(f) shall not exceed a total of six (6) continuing education credits during the period for which the credit is sought.

5410.11 A person seeking continuing education credit for activities under § 5410.9 shall provide sufficient documentation to allow the Board to determine if the activity meets the requirements of § 5410.1.

5411 SUPERVISED PRACTICE OF STUDENTS

5411.1 A student may practice registered nursing only in accordance with the Act and this chapter.

5411.2 A student who is fulfilling educational requirements under § 103(c) of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.03(c), may be authorized to engage in the supervised practice of registered nursing without a District of Columbia license.

5411.3 Only a registered nurse licensed under the Act, who is an appointed faculty member of the accredited school, college, or university, or a preceptor meeting the qualifications set forth in chapter 56 of this title, shall be authorized to supervise the practice of registered nursing by a student.

5411.4 A student who practices pursuant to this section shall only practice at a hospital, long-term care facility, a health facility operated by the District or federal government, a health education center, or other health care facility considered appropriate by the school, college, or university.

5411.5 All supervised practice of a student shall take place under general or immediate supervision of a registered nurse.

5411.6 A person who has been denied a license, disciplined, convicted of an offense that bears directly upon his or her fitness to be licensed, or who has such an action pending in the District of Columbia or another jurisdiction shall not practice pursuant to this section unless first authorized by the Board in writing.

5411.7 A student practicing under this section shall not assume administrative or technical responsibility for the operation of a nursing program, unit, service, or institution.

- 5411.8 A student shall identify himself or herself as such before engaging in the supervised practice of registered nursing. A student shall wear a picture identification badge with lettering clearly visible to the client bearing the name of the student and the position title.
- 5411.9 A student shall not receive compensation of any nature, directly or indirectly, from a client or client's family member.
- 5411.10 The appointed supervising faculty member shall be fully responsible for the practice by a student during the period of supervision and may be subject to disciplinary action for violations of the Act or this chapter by the student.
- 5411.11 The Board may deny an application for licensure by, or take other disciplinary action against, a student who is found to have violated the Act or this chapter. The Board may, in addition to any other disciplinary actions permitted by the Act, revoke, suspend, or restrict the privilege of the student to practice.

5412 SUPERVISED PRACTICE BY APPLICANTS

- 5412.1 An applicant for a license as a registered nurse may practice registered nursing only in accordance with the Act and this chapter.
- 5412.2 An unlicensed individual may be authorized to engage in the supervised practice of registered nursing if the individual:
- (a) Has submitted an application for a license in accordance with this chapter and the application is currently pending;
 - (b) Has graduated from an approved nursing program in accordance with § 5402.1, or met the requirements set forth in § 5403; and
 - (c) Has never taken the NCLEX-RN examination.
- 5412.3 An applicant seeking to practice pursuant to § 5412.2 shall submit a request for a supervised practice letter. The applicant shall not be permitted to practice unless the supervised practice letter has been issued by the Board. The supervised practice letter is not renewable and shall expire:
- (a) Ninety (90) days after the date of issuance; or
 - (b) Upon receipt of written notice from the Board that the applicant has failed the examination.

- 5412.4 Upon receipt of the supervised practice letter, the applicant shall inform the employer of the date of expiration of the letter and shall immediately stop the practice of registered nursing on that date, or upon receipt of written notice from the Board that the applicant has failed the examination, whichever date is earlier.
- 5412.5 The applicant authorized to practice under this section may do so only under the general or immediate supervision of a registered nurse licensed under this chapter.
- 5412.6 An applicant authorized to practice under this section shall only practice at a hospital, long-term care facility, a health facility operated by the District or federal government, academic institution, or other health care facility considered appropriate and approved by the Board.
- 5412.7 An applicant authorized to practice under this section shall not assume administrative or technical responsibility for the operation of a nursing program, unit, service, or institution.
- 5412.8 An applicant authorized to practice under this section shall identify themselves as an applicant practitioner before engaging in the practice of registered nursing. The applicant shall wear a picture identification badge with lettering clearly visible to the client bearing the name of the applicant and the position title.
- 5412.9 An applicant practicing under this section shall not receive compensation of any nature, directly or indirectly, from a client or client's family member, except for a salary or wage from their employer based on hours of supervised worked.
- 5412.10 The supervisor of an applicant authorized to practice under this section shall be fully responsible for the practice of the applicant during the period of supervision and may be subject to disciplinary action for violations of the Act or this chapter.
- 5412.11 The Board may deny an application for licensure by, or take other disciplinary action against, an applicant who is found to have violated the Act or this chapter. The Board may, in addition to any other disciplinary actions permitted by the Act, revoke, suspend, or restrict the privilege of the applicant to practice registered nursing.

5413 [RESERVED]

5414 SCOPE OF PRACTICE

5414.1 The practice of registered nursing means the performance of the full scope of nursing services, with or without compensation, designed to promote and maintain health, prevent illness and injury, and provide care to all patients in all settings and includes:

- (a) Providing a comprehensive nursing assessment of the health status of a patient;
- (b) Collaborating with a health care team to develop and coordinate an integrated, patient-centered health care plan;
- (c) Developing a comprehensive, patient-centered health care plan, including:
 - (1) Establishing nursing diagnoses;
 - (2) Setting goals to meet identified health care needs; and
 - (3) Prescribing nursing interventions;
- (d) Implementing nursing care through the execution of independent nursing strategies, and the provision of regimens requested, ordered or prescribed by authorized health care providers;
- (e) Evaluating responses to interventions and the effectiveness of the plan of care;
- (f) Designing and implementing teaching plans based on patient needs;
- (g) Delegating and assigning nursing interventions to implement the plan of care;
- (h) Providing for the maintenance of safe and effective nursing care rendered directly or indirectly;
- (i) Advocating the best interest of patients;
- (j) Communicating and collaborating with other health care providers in the management of health care and the implementation of the total health care regimen within and across care settings;
- (k) Managing, supervising and evaluating the practice of nursing;

- (l) Teaching the theory and practice of nursing;
- (m) Participating in the development of health care policies, procedures and systems; and
- (n) Performing other acts that require education and training consistent with professional standards as prescribed by the Board and commensurate with the registered nurse's education, demonstrated competencies and experience.

5414.2 A registered nurse may accept or perform an activity, intervention, or role that is not within the traditional nursing training or responsibility if all the following criteria are met:

- (a) The activity, intervention, or role is consistent with professional standards and not prohibited by the Act or this chapter;
- (b) The registered nurse has the appropriate education, knowledge, competency, and training to safely perform the activity, intervention, or role and there is documented evidence of the registered nurse's current competency;
- (c) Performing the activity, intervention, or role is consistent with evidence-based nursing and health care literature;
- (d) There are practice-setting policies and procedures in place to support performing the activity, intervention, or role;
- (e) The activity, intervention, or role would be performed by a reasonable and prudent nurse in that setting;
- (f) The appropriate resources to perform the activity, intervention, or role are available to the registered nurse; and
- (g) The registered nurse is prepared to accept accountability for the activity, intervention, or role as well as the outcomes.

5414.3 A registered nurse shall ensure that a client or patient is fully informed of their role and responsibility as a registered nurse and wear a pictured identification badge with lettering clearly visible to a client bearing the name of the registered nurse and the title "Registered Nurse" or "R.N."

5415 DELEGATION AND ASSIGNMENT

5415.1 A registered nurse shall be fully responsible for the provision of nursing services including implementation of a plan of care. A registered nurse

may delegate or assign nursing interventions or tasks only in accordance with this section, and shall be responsible and accountable for the performance and outcome of any delegated or assigned task.

5415.2 A registered nurse may delegate or assign nursing interventions or tasks to be performed by a licensed practical nurse (LPN), nursing assistive personnel (NAP), or unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP). Each delegation or assignment shall be in a manner that does not conflict with the Act or other District laws, this chapter, or federal laws and regulations that affect the practice of nursing in the District.

5415.3 To properly delegate a nursing intervention or task to a delegatee:

- (a) The registered nurse shall have performed a full assessment of the patient's, client's, or consumer's needs and determined the required nursing interventions or tasks;
- (b) The registered nurse shall have determined that:
 - (1) The delegatee possesses sufficient skills, training, and competence to successfully and safely perform the delegated interventions or tasks;
 - (2) The interventions or tasks to be delegated are of the type that frequently recur in the daily care of the patient, client, or customer and are usually performed according to established sequence of steps with predictable results and minimal potential risks;
 - (3) The successful performance of the intervention or task does not require ongoing assessment, interpretation, or decision-making beyond the completion of the task or intervention at hand;
 - (4) The organization or agency has policies, procedures, or protocol in place for the delegation; and
- (c) The registered nurse shall be available to provide supervision to the delegatee, which shall include:
 - (1) Providing instructions to the delegatee;
 - (2) Monitoring the performance of the delegated nursing intervention(s);
 - (3) Verifying that the delegated nursing intervention(s) has been implemented; and

- (4) Evaluating the client's response and the outcome of the delegated nursing intervention(s).

- 5415.4 A registered nurse shall not delegate an intervention or task unless the registered nurse is themselves competent to perform it, and the intervention or task is within scope of practice for registered nursing in accordance with § 5414.
- 5415.5 Prior to delegation, the nurse administrator or administrator of nursing services in any setting where nursing services are provided shall establish policies and procedures for delegation in nursing practice. The policies and procedures shall include a mechanism for:
- (a) Identifying those individuals, by position title and job description, to whom nursing interventions may be delegated or assigned based on education, training, and competency measurements;
 - (b) Documenting the competence level of the LPN, NAP, or UAP;
 - (c) Specifying the level and type of supervision required for each delegatee; and
 - (d) Periodically evaluating the delegation process.
- 5415.6 If the delegating registered nurse determines that an LPN, NAP, or UAP cannot safely perform the nursing intervention, the delegating registered nurse shall not delegate the nursing intervention to the LPN, NAP, or UAP.
- 5415.7 The delegating registered nurse shall delegate in a manner that protects the health, safety, and welfare of the client and others. The nursing tasks delegated shall be:
- (a) Within the area of responsibility of the nurse delegating the task;
 - (b) The type that can be properly and safely performed by the delegatee without jeopardizing the client's welfare; and
 - (c) Based on the assessment of a reasonable and prudent nurse, within the scope of sound nursing judgment.
- 5415.8 The delegating registered nurse shall determine the required degree of supervision after an evaluation of appropriate factors including:
- (a) The stability of the client's condition;

- (b) The willingness and ability of the client to be involved in the management of his or her care;
- (c) The training, experience, and competency of the delegatee implementing the nursing intervention; and
- (d) The nature of the nursing intervention.

5415.9 The following registered nursing responsibilities shall not be delegated:

- (a) The initial nursing assessment of the client;
- (b) The ongoing comprehensive nursing assessment of the client;
- (c) Development of the nursing diagnoses;
- (d) Establishment of the nursing care goals;
- (e) Evaluation of the client's progress or lack of progress toward goal achievement;
- (f) Client counseling and family education, except as it relates to promoting independence in personal care and activities of daily living (ADLs);
- (g) Coordination and management of care including triage, collaborating, consulting, and referring;
- (h) Providing advice to a client or family member; or
- (i) Any nursing task which requires registered nursing knowledge, judgment, and skill.

5415.10 A registered nurse shall comply with the regulations governing the delegation to and scope of NAP in accordance with chapters 61, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97 of this title and any other rules or regulations governing NAP.

5415.11 To properly assign a nursing care task, a registered nurse shall:

- (a) Ensure that the task or intervention to be assigned is clearly within the basic training and lawful scope of the person assigned;
- (b) Ensure that the person assigned possesses the requisite skills and competence; and

- (c) Supervise, monitor, and evaluate the performance of assigned tasks or interventions.

5416 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- 5416.1 A registered nurse shall adhere to the standards set forth in the “Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements” as adopted by the American Nurses Association in 2015, which is available at <https://www.nursingworld.org/coe-view-only>.
- 5416.2 A registered nurse shall:
- (a) Practice within the scope of practice for registered nursing established by the Act and this chapter;
 - (b) Demonstrate honesty and integrity in nursing practice;
 - (c) Base nursing decisions on nursing knowledge and skills, the needs of patients, and registered nursing standards;
 - (d) Accept responsibility for judgments, individual nursing actions, competence, decisions, and behavior in the course of nursing practice; and
 - (e) Maintain competence through ongoing learning and application of knowledge in registered nursing practice.
- 5416.3 A registered nurse shall respect the client's right to privacy by protecting confidential information, unless the registered nurse is obligated or allowed by law to disclose the information.
- 5416.4 A registered nurse shall not accept or perform professional responsibilities which the nurse is not competent to perform.
- 5416.5 A registered nurse shall not, after accepting an assignment or responsibility for a client’s care, and without giving adequate notice to the supervisor so that arrangements can be made for the continuation of nursing care by others:
- (a) Unilaterally sever the established nurse-client relationship; or
 - (b) Leave a client for a length of time, or in a manner, that exposes the client unnecessarily to risk of harm.
- 5416.6 A registered nurse shall know, recognize, and maintain professional boundaries of the nurse-client relationship.

5416.7 A registered nurse shall report any unsafe nursing practice that they have reasonable cause to suspect has exposed, or is likely to expose, a client to unnecessary risk of harm as a result of a failure to provide client care that conforms to the minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing professional practice. The registered nurse shall report the conduct to the appropriate authority within the facility, or the Board.

5416.8 A registered nurse shall provide nursing services, without discrimination, regardless of the age, disability, economic status, gender, national origin, race, religion, or health problems of the client served.

5499 DEFINITIONS

5499.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings ascribed:

Act - Health Occupation Revision Act of 1985 ("Act"), effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code §§ 3-1201.01 et seq.).

Administrator for Nursing Services - the licensed registered nurse responsible for planning, directing and controlling the operation of nursing service within an agency, health care facility, or setting in which nursing care is being offered or provided.

Activities of Daily Living (ADL) - the basic tasks of everyday life, such as getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, eating, walking, toileting, transferring to and from one's wheelchair, and taking medications prescribed for self-administration.

Agency - any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or other business entity engaged in the business of referring nursing personnel, as employees or independent contractors, to a health care facility for the purpose of rendering temporary nursing services.

Board - the Board of Nursing, established by § 204 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.04.

Delegation - the transference from the registered nurse to another individual within the scope of his or her practice, the authority to act on behalf of the registered nurse in the performance of a nursing intervention, while the registered nurse retains the accountability and responsibility for the delegated act.

General Supervision - supervision in which the supervisor is available on the premises or within vocal communication either directly or by a communication device at the time the supervisee is practicing.

Immediate Supervision - supervision in which the supervisor is with the supervisee and either discussing or observing the person's practice.

NCLEX-RN - National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

Nursing Assistive Personnel – trained and regulated personnel providing nursing assistance under a licensed nurse’s supervision, including persons regulated under chapters 61 (Trained Medication Employee), 93 (Home Health Aides), 94 (Dialysis Technicians), 95 (Medication Aides), 96 (Certified Nurse Aides), and 97 (Patient Care Technicians) of this title, and any other persons subsequently regulated pursuant to the Act.

Nursing Intervention - the initiation and completion of a client focused action necessary to accomplish the goal(s) defined in the client-centered plan of care.

Practical Nurse - a person licensed to practice practical nursing under the Act and chapter 55 of this title.

Re-entry program - a formal program of study with both didactic and clinical components, designed to prepare a nurse who has been out of practice to re-enter into nursing practice at the registered nurse level.

Registered Nurse - a person licensed to practice registered nursing under the Act and this chapter.

Review Course - a course of study providing review of basic preparation for the NCLEX-RN examination.

Supervisor - a registered nurse licensed under the Act who is responsible and accountable for assigning, directing, evaluating and managing a unit, service, or program that offers or provides nursing care or who is responsible for the supervision of trained unlicensed personnel, students, graduate nurses, or other licensed nurses.

Unlicensed Assistive Personnel - an individual, other than a licensed nurse or nursing assistive personnel, who has received appropriate training or instruction to function in a complementary or assistant role to a licensed nurse in providing direct patient care or in carrying out common nursing tasks. The term includes, but is not limited to, medical assistants, orderlies, assistant technicians, attendants, or other health aides, who are not subject to licensure, registration, or certification requirements pursuant to the Act.

5499.2 The definitions in § 4099 of Chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference into and are applicable to this chapter.