This algorithm is a tool to assist licensed nurses in making delegation decisions. The algorithm is based on South Dakota’s Nurse Practice Act (NPA) and National Guidelines.

Can I delegate this task or assignment?

1. Is delegating the task/assignment prohibited in the NPA?
   - Yes: STOP Do Not Delegate
   - No: Would another nurse in a similar situation delegate this?
2. Yes: STOP Do Not Delegate
   - No: Is the delegation allowed by your employing agency?
3. Yes: Evaluate and determine patient needs
4. The Task/Assignment is Delegatable
   - Yes: Has delegatee received education?
     - Yes: Is delegatee competent to perform?
       - Yes: Will you be available in-person or electronically?
         - Yes: Evaluate and determine patient needs
       - No: STOP Do Not Delegate
     - No: STOP Do Not Delegate
   - No: STOP Do Not Delegate

Consider the stability of the patient and if the task/assignment:
- Has reasonably predictable outcomes;
- Can be performed without using nursing judgment, making critical decisions, making complex observations or assessments;
- Can be safely performed according to exact, unchanging directions.

Approved by the South Dakota Board of Nursing on July 11, 2019.