Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-making Framework

Identify, describe, or clarify the activity, intervention, or role under consideration.

1. Is the activity, intervention, or role prohibited by the Nurse Practice Act (NPA) and rules/regulations or any other applicable laws, rule/regulations, or accreditation standards or professional nursing scope and standards?
   - Yes → STOP
   - No → Is performing the activity, intervention, or role consistent with evidence-based nursing and health care literature?
     - No → STOP
     - Yes → Are there practice setting policies and procedures in place to support performing the activity, intervention, or role?
       - No → STOP
       - Yes → Has the nurse completed the necessary education to safely perform the activity, intervention, or role?
         - No → STOP
         - Yes → Is there documented evidence of the nurse’s current competence (knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgments) to safely perform the activity, intervention, or role?
           - No → STOP
           - Yes → Does the nurse have the appropriate resources to perform the activity, intervention, or role in the practice setting?
             - No → STOP
             - Yes → Would a reasonable and prudent nurse perform the activity, intervention, or role in this setting?
               - No → STOP
               - Yes → Is the nurse prepared to accept accountability for the activity, intervention, or role and for the related outcomes?
                 - No → STOP
                 - Yes → The nurse may perform the activity, intervention, or role to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care.

These decision-making framework guidelines are for educational purposes only. The guidelines do not purport to establish a standard of care or advise a course of action for patient care in any particular situation.