South Dakota Board of Nursing

DELEGATION DECISION MAKING ALGORITHM

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?

Is the task or assignment in your scope?

STOP Do Not Delegate — NO

Click Here Scope of Practice Decisioning Framework — Unsure?

Is delegating the task/assignment prohibited in the NPA? — YES

STOP Do Not Delegate — YES

Click Here SD Delegation and Supervision Requirements — Unsure?

NO

Would another nurse in a similar situation delegate this? — 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 judgement, making critical decisions, making complex observations or assessments;
- Can be safely performed according to exact, unchanging directions.

YES

Is the delegation allowed by your employing agency? — NO → **STOP** Do Not Delegate

Click Here **National Guidelines** Review nurse, employer, and delegatee considerations and responsibilities.

YES

Evaluate and determine patient needs

Has delegatee received education? Is delegatee competent to perform? Will you be available in-person or electronically? — NO → **STOP** Do Not Delegate

YES → The Task/Assignment is Delegatable

- After a delegatee accepts a delegated task or assignment, the delegatee is accountable to complete it and may not re-delegate to another individual.
- A nurse is accountable to supervise and evaluate outcomes.

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