

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING  
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Patient Assessment Guidelines

I. Purpose: To identify the roles of the Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the assessment of patients

II. Definitions:

- A. Nursing Assessment: Nursing assessment is defined as “the systematic collection of all data and information relevant to the care of patients, their problems, and needs” (Venes, 2005). Components of the nursing assessment include nursing history, physical examination, review of other sources of assessment data (such as the client's family, other members of the health care team, and the client's record), and analysis and synthesis of data collected.
- B. Comprehensive Nursing Assessment by the RN: The comprehensive nursing assessment is conducted by a Registered Nurse and is an extensive data collection (initial and ongoing) for clients, families, groups and communities. This data collection addresses anticipated and emergent changes in the client's health status, recognizes alterations from the client's previous condition, synthesizes the biological, psychological and social aspects of the client's condition, evaluates the impact of nursing care; and uses this broad and complete analysis to develop the nursing plan of care, which includes communication and consultation with other health team members (National Council of State Boards of Nursing, 2006).
- C. Focused Assessment by the LPN: A focused assessment is conducted by a Licensed Practical Nurse and is an appraisal of the client's status and situation at hand, which includes initial and ongoing data collection, and deciding who needs to be informed of the information and when to inform (National Council of State Boards of Nursing, 2006).

III. *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act* and Assessment

- A. Scope of Practice of the Registered Nurse: The *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act* states "Registered Nursing means the practice of the full scope of nursing which includes, but is not limited to: assessing the health status of individuals, families and groups, [and] analyzing assessment data to determine nursing care needs..." [59 O.S. §567.3a.3]
- B. Scope of Practice of the Licensed Practical Nurse: The *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act* states "Licensed practical nursing means the practice of nursing under the supervision or direction of a registered nurse, licensed physician or dentist. This directed scope of practice includes, but is not limited to:

contributing to the assessment of the health status of individuals and groups..."  
[59 O.S. 567.3a.4]

### III. The RN's Role in Nursing Assessment

The Registered Nurse (1) conducts comprehensive data collection, assesses for any anticipated changes in condition or treatment and/or emergent change in status of the client, as an individual, family and/or community; (2) recognizes alterations in the client's condition and, compares changes to previous client condition; and (3) analyzes and synthesizes biological, psychological and social scientific data to determine rationale for nursing care needs of the client.

### IV. The LPN's Role in Nursing Assessment

The Licensed Practice Nurse contributes to assessment of the patient by conducting focused assessment of the client through collecting data, comparing the data collected to the client's previous condition, and determining when, to whom and where to report the data collected.

### V. References

National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2006). *Model Nursing Practice Act*. Chicago, IL: Author.

Venes, D. (Ed.). (2005). *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary* (20<sup>th</sup> ed.). Philadelphia, PA: F.A. Davis Publishing.

### VI. Regulatory Authority

59 O.S. §567.3a., 3. and 4.