



**Alabama Board of Nursing**

**The following competencies may be performed Student Nurse Apprentices following competency validation by the nursing education program:**

<b>Basic Competencies</b>	<b>PN Student Apprentice</b>	<b>RN Student Apprentice</b>
Perform hand hygiene	Yes	Yes
Apply personal protective equipment	Yes	Yes
Assist patients with ambulation, including but not exclusive to use of mobile assistive devices such as walkers, canes, crutches, gait belts, and wheelchairs	Yes	Yes
Position and transfer patients	Yes	Yes
Perform restorative care to include active and passive range-of-motion exercises and contracture care	Yes	Yes
Perform hygiene care including bed baths, urinary catheter care, and ostomy care	Yes	Yes
Assist patients with activities of daily living such as feeding, clothing, care of teeth and hair, toileting	Yes	Yes
Perform skin care and pressure ulcer prevention, turning	Yes	Yes
Apply sequential compression stockings and/or devices	Yes	Yes
Communicate with patients and families using therapeutic communication methods	Yes	Yes
Perform comprehensive physical assessment to include identification of normal and abnormal findings	Yes	Yes
Document assessments, vital signs, medications, etc.	Yes	Yes
Assist with admission and discharge of patients	Yes. May not perform the initial intake assessment, may gather data and perform patient discharge	Yes. May perform initial intake assessment and discharge instructions
Obtain vital signs, including blood pressure, pulse, respirations, height/weight, and oxygen saturation	Yes	Yes

Obtain blood glucose readings and appropriately document and disclose results	Yes	Yes
Perform 12-lead EKG	Yes	Yes
Administer enemas	Yes	Yes
Perform ostomy care	Yes	Yes
Collect non-intravenous and non-arterial specimens	Yes	Yes
Perform wet to dry and clean dressings	Yes	Yes
Apply steri-strips, removes bandages and staples/suture	Yes	Yes
Apply cold and heat therapies	Yes	Yes
Provide care for casts, traction, pins, and air splints	Yes	Yes
Insert, provide suction, and remove nasogastric tubes	Yes	Yes
Administer enteral and nasogastric tube feedings	Yes	Yes
Administer oxygen therapy and perform airway management	Yes	Yes
Administer Incentive Spirometer therapy	Yes	Yes
Provide oral, nasal, and tracheal suctioning	Yes	Yes
Apply restraints only as facility policy allows and under the supervision of the supervising (preceptor) nurse	Yes	Yes
Administer medications by oral, intra-muscular, intradermal, subcutaneous, otic, ophthalmic, nasal, nebulizer, or tube routes excluding racemic epinephrine by nebulizer. Administer narcotics only as allowed by facility policy and under the supervision of the supervising (preceptor) nurse.	Yes	Yes
Follow safety precautions for fall prevention, seizures, etc.	Yes	Yes
Perform end-of-life care	Yes	Yes
Perform post-mortem care	Yes	Yes

<b>Advanced Competencies</b>	<b>PN Student Apprentice</b>	<b>RN Student Apprentice</b>
Apply sterile gloves/surgical gowning and gloving (may be performed in first time period)	Yes	Yes
Empty and care for surgical drains such as Jackson-Pratts, Hemovac, and etc.	Yes	Yes
Insert and remove urinary catheters	Yes	Yes
Straight catheter insertion and removal	Yes	Yes
Insert intravenous (IV) catheters and provide IV therapy	Yes Note: LPNs may not start IVs on neonates	Yes

Administer IV piggyback medications. IV push medications only administered if healthcare facility policy allows.	Yes Note: LPNs may not administer IV push medications without further certification	Yes.
Preparing primary IV container and tubing	Yes	Yes
Converting a primary IV line into a saline lock	Yes	Yes
Peripheral lab draw using a butterfly needle and syringe	Yes	Yes
Discontinue IV therapy	Yes	Yes
Perform endotracheal tube suctioning, care, and dressing changes	Yes	Yes
Perform central line dressing changes as healthcare facility policy allows	Yes	Yes
Perform sterile dressing procedures pending facility policy	Yes	Yes
Perform routine care of chest tubes	Yes	Yes
Assign tasks to other healthcare personnel	May assign to nursing assistants/care techs	May assign to other RNs and nursing assistants/care techs
Perform assessments on adult patients, pediatric patients, pregnant patients, post-partum patients, and newborns	Yes	Yes
Care for patients in labor and delivery to include but not limited to applying and monitoring external fetal heart tone (FHT) and uterine contraction monitors (TOCO), monitoring internal FHT and uterine contraction monitors, conducting nonstress tests, checking for cervical dilation and effacement, obtaining vaginal cultures, assisting with epidurals, and assisting with deliveries.	Yes	Yes
Administer care of the newborn, including but not limited to assessing the cord and obtaining cord blood, determining Apgar scores, taking measurements, administering vitamin K, Hepatitis vaccine, and erythromycin ointment; and performing heel sticks for PKU and glucose monitoring, monitoring phototherapy, and assisting with circumcisions.	Yes	Yes
Manage post-partum care including but not limited to episiotomy care, assessing for postpartum hemorrhage, and assisting with breastfeeding.	Yes	Yes

Skills that may **NOT** be performed by a student nurse apprentice include:

- a. Administration and discontinuation of blood or blood products
- b. Administration of IV chemotherapy
- c. Taking verbal or phone orders without the presence of the licensed nurse preceptor
- d. Transporting a patient alone when an RN is required
- e. Providing second signature/check for controlled drugs, blood products, and medications listed as requiring independent double-checking
- f. Witnessing consents
- g. Any skills for which the student nurse apprentice has not been cleared by the nursing education program