

Delegation

Nursing

What can be delegated, to whom, and why accountability stays behind.

Delegating is a clinical decision made about this task, this person, today.

The five rights

Right task — within scope, routine, predictable

Right circumstance — stable patient, right setting

Right person — assessed as competent for it

Right direction — clear instruction and limits

Right supervision — available, checking, evaluating

Never delegate

Assessment, planning, evaluation or teaching

A task requiring nursing judgement

Anything outside the person's competence

A task you could not do or supervise yourself

Accountability for the delegation decision

Educational reference. What may be delegated is set by law, registration standards and local policy, and differs between countries