



Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.

POSITION STATEMENT

Role Delineation of Nursing Assistive Personnel in Gastroenterology

Disclaimer

The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. assumes no responsibility for the practices or recommendations of any member or other practitioner, or for the policies and procedures of any practice setting. Nurses and associates function within the limitations of licensure, state nurse practice act, and/or institutional policy.

Definitions

Accountability refers to being responsible and answerable for actions or inactions of self or others in the context of delegation (NCSBN, 2005).

Delegation refers to entrusting the performance of a selected nursing task to an individual who is qualified, competent, and able to perform such tasks (ANA, 2005; National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), 2005).

Nursing Assistive Personnel refers to individuals who are trained to function in an assistive role in the gastroenterology setting. Nursing Assistive Personnel who have specialized training or education in a specific area (gastroenterology), may be further classified as Technicians, for example, GI assistants, GI technicians, GTS (GI Technical Specialist) or AGTS (Advanced GI Technical Specialist) who have direct patient care responsibility and are supervised by a GI Registered Nurse (RN) (ANA, 2007).

Role delineation is a description of the responsibilities and functions of a healthcare worker in a specific role, including the current activities common to this role.

Supervision refers to the provision of guidance or direction, oversight, evaluation, and follow-up by the licensed nurse for the accomplishment of a nursing task delegated to nursing assistive personnel (NCSBN, 2005).

Background

To meet the challenges of continuing change in the health care industry, Nursing Assistive Personnel have become an integral part of the health care team in all gastroenterology practice settings (Newhouse, Steinhauser & Berk, 2007; Kleinman & Saccomano, 2006).

Position

Nursing Assistive Personnel will only accept or perform responsibilities which the individual knows he/she is competent to perform. After demonstrating required

competencies, Nursing Assistive Personnel contribute to optimal patient outcomes by providing delegated patient care activities within specified limits (NCSBN, 2005).

The role of the Nursing Assistive Personnel in gastroenterology includes but is not limited to:

1. Completes tasks as delegated by RN within defined role functions and documented competency,
2. Assists in data collection to identify the patient's needs, problems, concerns or human responses (e.g., vital signs),
3. Assists, under the direction of the GI Registered Nurse, in the implementation of the established plan of care,
4. Assists the physician and GI Registered Nurse before, during, and after diagnostic and therapeutic procedures,
5. Reprocesses and maintains equipment according to standards of infection control, policies/procedures and manufacturers' instructions,
6. Provides and maintains a healthy and safe environment for the patient and staff by complying with regulatory agency requirements and standards set forth by professional organizations and institutional policies,
7. Acknowledges the diversity of patients,
8. Participates in lifelong learning (e.g., continuing education),
9. Maintains knowledge of current practice issues related to the field of gastroenterology,
10. Complies with legal and practice standards inherent in patient care (e.g., patient's bill of rights)
11. Conducts oneself in an ethical manner,
12. Participates in performance improvement activities as directed,
13. Collaborates with the interprofessional team to ensure quality and continuity of care,
14. Communicates effectively with patient and interprofessional team to ensure quality and continuity of care.

Nursing Assistive Personnel are encouraged to complete the SGNA GI Associate's Programs to become a GI Technical Specialist (GTS) and an Advanced GT Specialist (AGTS).

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Recommended Reading List

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