

APPENDIX G

NYS Nurse Practice Act

LEGAL DEFINITION OF NURSING PRACTICE

NEW YORK STATE

Effective March 15, 1972

Section 6901:

Definitions as used in section 6902:

12. “Diagnosing” in the context of nursing practice means identification of and discrimination between physical and psychosocial signs and symptoms essential to effective execution and management of the nursing regimen. Such diagnostic privilege is distinct from a medical diagnosis.
13. “Treating” means selection and performance of those therapeutic measures essential to the effective execution and management of the nursing regimen, and execution of any prescribed medical regimen.
14. “Human responses” means those signs, symptoms and processes which denote the individual’s interaction with an actual or potential health problem.

Section 6902:

Definitions of practice of nursing:

1. The practice of the profession of nursing as a registered professional nurse is defined as Diagnosing and treating human responses to actual or potential health problems through such services as case-finding, health teaching, health counseling, and provisions of care supportive to or restorative to life and well-being, and executing medical regimens prescribed by a licensed or otherwise legally authorized physician or dentist. A Nursing regimen shall be consistent with and shall not vary any existing medical regimen.
2. The practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse is defined as performing tasks and responsibilities within the framework of case-finding, health teaching, health counseling, and provision of supportive care under the direction of a registered professional nurse or licensed or otherwise legally authorized physician or dentist.

Section 6906:

1. Nothing in this article shall be construed to confer authority to practice medicine or dentistry.