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| PHYSICIAN DELEGATION OF TASKS TO PHYSICIAN EXTENDERS | | | | NO. 211 | |
| It is the policy of Winning Wheels that a physician may delegate tasks to a physician assistant, practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist who is not currently an employee of the facility, is working 'in collaboration with a physician, and meets the applicable definition as follows:  "Nurse Practitioner" is a registered professional nurse who meets the State's requirements governing the qualifications of nurse specialists, and is licensed by the State of Illinois.  "Clinical nurse specialist" is a registered professional nurse currently in practice in the State and who meets the State's requirements governing the qualifications of clinical nurse specialists and is licensed by the State of Illinois.  "Physician Assistant" is a person who meets the applicable State requirements governing the qualifications for assistants to physicians.  The physician extender must act within the scope of practice as defined by the State law; and is under the supervision of the physician. A physician may not delegate a task when the regulations specify that the physician must perform itpersonally, or when the delegation is prohibited under State law.  Generally, when personal performance of a particular task by a physician is specified in the regulations, performance of that task cannot be delegated to anyone else. However, the tasks of examining the resident, reviewing the resident's total program of care, and writing progress notes may be delegated, according to State law. Illinois State law prohibits against diagnosing and prescribing medications by nurses, and prohibits physician extenders from actually signing physician orders for controlled substances. A physician may delegate to a physician extender the signing of prescriptions for non-controlled substances in accordance with established protocols. Under these circumstances, the physician extender should sign the physician's name, make a slash, and then sign the physician extender's initials. Also, the physician extender may phone in a prescription to a pharmacy under the guidance of standing orders / or protocol by the supervising physician.  Protocol for medical treatment that grants the physician extender authority to order laboratory tests must be established by the physician and the physician extender. In establishing these limits, consideration must be given to the specific types of patient situations.  In accordance with State law, it is the policy of Winning Wheels to permit physician extenders (as defined above) to alternate patient visits with the physician after the initial patient visit is completed, unless otherwise deemed acceptable and within the parameters defined in established protocols and in accordance with State and Federal law.  The physician extender must be under the supervision of a designated physician in accordance with State law, and the physician remains ultimately liable for the patient's medical care. | | | | | |
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