

# VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

## GUIDANCE DOCUMENT # 90-23

### TITLE: Decision Making Model for Determining RN/LPN Scope of Practice

The mission of the Virginia Board of Nursing is the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia through the safe and effective practice of nursing. In the practice of nursing, professional issues and practice questions arise that require the nurse to apply education, experience, and professional judgment and to be legally responsible and accountable for the outcome(s).

The role of the licensing board is to establish minimum standards for education, licensure, and practice and to provide information to practicing nurses. However, the licensing board cannot and should not make decisions for its licensees. The Board establishes regulations that require the licensee to provide nursing care services within parameters consistent with education, skills, experience, and current competence.

Therefore, in an effort to insure safe, competent nursing services to the public as well as to educate and provide direction to nurses to facilitate clinical decision-making in determining legal scope of practice, the Board of Nursing adopted A Decision-Making Model for Determining RN/LPN Scope of Practice on September 24, 1996. The following model may be utilized in conjunction with applicable Virginia nursing laws and regulations in a given practice situation.

Adopted: September 24, 1996

Reviewed: November 18, 2003