Decision Tree for Delegation by RNs

Has there been an assessment of the healthcare consumer’s needs by an RN?
- **Yes**: Assess the healthcare consumer’s needs and then proceed to a consideration of delegation as part of the planning and implementation process.
- **No**: Do not delegate

Is the task within the delegating RN’s scope of practice?
- **Yes**: Do not delegate
- **No**: Do not delegate

Are statutes and regulations in place that support delegation? Authority to delegate varies, so RNs must check the jurisdiction’s statutes and regulations.
- **Yes**: Do not delegate
- **No**: Do not delegate

Does the organization/agency permit this delegation?
- **Yes**: Do not delegate
- **No**: Do not delegate

Is the delegating nurse competent to make delegation decisions?
- **Yes**: Do not delegate
- **No**: Do not delegate

Is the task consistent with the recommended criteria for delegation? **Must meet all the following criteria:**
- Is within the caregiver’s range of functions,
- Frequently recurs in the daily care of a healthcare consumer or group,
- Is performed according to an established sequence of steps,
- Involves little or no modification from one care situation to another,
- May be performed with a predictable outcome,
- Does not inherently involve ongoing assessment, interpretation, or decision-making that cannot be logically separated from the procedure(s) itself, and
- Does not endanger a healthcare consumer’s life or well-being
- **No**: Do not delegate
- **Yes**: Do not delegate until evidence of education and validation of competence are available, then reconsider delegation.

Does the caregiver have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) to accept the delegation? Does the caregiver’s abilities match the care needs of the healthcare consumer?
- **No**: Do not delegate until policies, procedures, and/or protocols are in place for the task or activity.
- **Yes**: Proceed with delegation. Complete documentation of delegation decisions and evaluation actions and findings as appropriate.

Are there organizational/agency policies, procedures, and/or protocols in place for this task or activity?
- **Yes**: Proceed with delegation. Complete documentation of delegation decisions and evaluation actions and findings as appropriate.
- **No**: Do not delegate

Is RN supervision available?
- **Yes**: Proceed with delegation. Complete documentation of delegation decisions and evaluation actions and findings as appropriate.
- **No**: Do not delegate

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