

## YOU'VE ASKED

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*I'm a registered nurse (RN) working in a hospital and I've been asked to teach bladder catheterization to one of my elderly client's significant other. Can I do this?*

THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS yes. In some situations, RNs may be required to teach clients' significant others how to perform a nursing activity, such as home catheterization.

### **Prior to teaching a nursing activity to my client's significant other, what conditions must be in place?**

By definition, teaching a nursing activity is considered providing instruction and determining that a person is competent to perform the activity as instructed. When planning to teach a nursing activity you should determine the following:

#### **That you have the knowledge, skill and judgment to competently perform the activity to be taught**

As an RN, you must practice within your own level of competence and comfort. The determination of whether you have the knowledge, judgment and competence to safely perform the activity to be taught is an important step in deciding if you will be the one teaching the specific activity to a significant other.

#### **That it is appropriate to teach this particular nursing activity**

The appropriateness of teaching a nursing activity to a significant other will be influenced by:

- the risks involved in having it performed by someone other than an RN;
- the overall health condition of the client;
- the significant other's capacity to acquire the knowledge, skill and judgment to perform the nursing

activity safely, effectively and ethically;

- the potential risks associated with the procedure;
- the learner's ability to deal with potential risks; and
- the type of supervision required and available.

The setting will often determine the safeguards and resources available for supervision, consultation and ongoing assessment of the client's overall condition. For example, an RN would be readily available in a hospital or a nursing home, but less likely to be in a residential facility or in a client's home.

#### **You understand the process of teaching**

If you decide to teach the nursing activity, you will have to adapt the teaching method accordingly to the learner's needs. You will be responsible and accountable to document the information provided, the steps of the activity as taught, conditions for performing the activity and the general indicators for seeking assistance. You must also ensure that the significant other receives clear instructions for performing the procedure. Therefore, you should provide written instructions for the activity including the expected signs of progress, and signs or symptoms that require the immediate attention of an RN or other designated health care professional. Finally, as part of the teaching process, you will evaluate the competence of the significant other to perform the activity and document your evaluation. This last step is integral to

When deciding whether it is safe and appropriate to teach a nursing activity to a client or significant other, RNs should consider the following questions:

- Is teaching the nursing activity appropriate in this situation?
- What level of knowledge, skill and judgment is required to perform the activity safely?
- What are the risks and benefits to the client in performing the activity? What are the expected outcomes?
- Does the client have established, well-defined care needs, support systems and coping mechanisms? Is the client's response to the procedure predictable?
- Has the need for teaching the activity been established? Is the client or significant other the most appropriate person in this particular situation to perform the activity given the nature of the activity, the client's condition and the resources available in the setting?
- Is performing the activity required frequently enough for the client or significant other to maintain competence?
- Will there be adequate supervision in the setting?
- Who will be available in the setting to evaluate on-going competence?

**MAR. 22 (FR) & 27 (ENG), 2012**

CNA Webinar Series: *Pause before you post! Exploring the Ethics of Social Media*  
» [www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/news/events/webinars/default\\_e.aspx](http://www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/news/events/webinars/default_e.aspx)

**MAR. 23, 2012**

NANB Office Closure: NANB's headquarters in Fredericton will be closed for office clean-up

**APR. 25-27, 2012**

AHIC 2012: *Towards Integrated Diagnostics 2<sup>nd</sup> Advances in Health Informatics Conference*  
• Toronto, ON  
» [www.ahic.nihi.ca](http://www.ahic.nihi.ca)

**APR. 26, 2012**

Canadian Respiratory Conference: *A Breath of Fresh Air*  
• Vancouver, BC  
» [http://lung.ca/crc/\\_pdf/CRC2012Announce\\_ENG.pdf](http://lung.ca/crc/_pdf/CRC2012Announce_ENG.pdf)

**MAY 3-5, 2012**

NENA National Conference: *30 Years of Navigating The Depth of Emergency Nursing*  
• Halifax, NS  
» <http://nena.ca>

**MAY 7-13, 2012**

National Nursing Week: *Nursing: the Health of our Nation*

**MAY 14-16, 2012**

6<sup>th</sup> National Community Health Nurses Conference: *Wisdom to Action: The Power to Shape Change*  
• Toronto, ON  
» [www.chnc.ca/nursing-conferences.cfm](http://www.chnc.ca/nursing-conferences.cfm)

**MAY 29-30, 2012**

NANB BoD Meeting  
• NANB Headquarters, Fredericton  
» [www.nanb.nb.ca](http://www.nanb.nb.ca)

**MAY 31, 2012**

NANB's 96<sup>th</sup> AGM  
• Delta Fredericton, NB  
» [www.nanb.nb.ca](http://www.nanb.nb.ca)

**JUN. 3 & 4, 2012**

The Room 217 Music Care Conference  
• Fredericton, NB  
» [www.room217.ca/index.php/music-care-conference-06-2012](http://www.room217.ca/index.php/music-care-conference-06-2012)

**JUN. 18, 2012**

CNA Annual Meeting and Biennial Convention: *Nurses: Movers and Shapers*  
• Vancouver, BC  
» [www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/news/events/convention/default\\_e.aspx](http://www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/news/events/convention/default_e.aspx)

**JUN. 23, 2012**

11<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Nursing Informatics  
• Montreal, QC  
» [www.ni2012.org/](http://www.ni2012.org/)

**PEACE**

*continued from page 17*

Elder abuse is a serious societal issue, not only in long term care facilities but in all health care settings. Seniors account for one-third of all hospitalizations and more than one-half of all hospital days. RNs within all health care settings are in a position to address the issue of elder abuse.

For more information on the PEACE initiative: [www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=924&ContentID=3445](http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=924&ContentID=3445)

**REFERENCES**

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Department of Nursing Home Services. (2011). Nursing Home annual report. [www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/sdds/pdf/StatisticalReports/NursingHomes/NursingHomes11-e.pdf](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/sdds/pdf/StatisticalReports/NursingHomes/NursingHomes11-e.pdf).

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Statistics Canada. "Population projections: Canada, the provinces and territories". *The Daily*, May 26, 2010. [www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/100526/dq100526b-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/100526/dq100526b-eng.htm)

Nurses Association of New Brunswick (2011). *Practice Standard: The Therapeutic Nurse-Client Relationship*. [www.nanb.nb.ca/downloads/Practice%20Standard-Nurse-Client%20Relationship\\_E.pdf](http://www.nanb.nb.ca/downloads/Practice%20Standard-Nurse-Client%20Relationship_E.pdf)

**Ask a Practice Consultant**

*continued from page 34*

ensuring patient safety.

For more information on this topic or other nursing practice issues, call the Nurses Association of New Brunswick's Practice department at 1-800-442-4417 or by email at [nanb@nanb.nb.ca](mailto:nanb@nanb.nb.ca).

**OTHER RESOURCES**

*Practice Guideline: Assigning, Delegation and Teaching Nursing Activities to Unregulated Care Providers* (2011). [www.nanb.nb.ca/downloads/Practice Guideline-Assigning, Delegating and teaching Nursing Activities to Unregulated Care Providers\\_E.pdf](http://www.nanb.nb.ca/downloads/Practice%20Guideline-Assigning, Delegating and teaching Nursing Activities to Unregulated Care Providers_E.pdf)

*NANB Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses* (2005). [www.nanb.nb.ca/PDF/practice/StandardsOfRegisteredNursesE.pdf](http://www.nanb.nb.ca/PDF/practice/StandardsOfRegisteredNursesE.pdf) ■