

ADVISORY
OPINION

OPINION: Delegation of VNS
ADOPTED: August, 2013
REVISED:
REAFFIRMED:

This Nebraska Board of Nursing advisory opinion is issued in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, [Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 \(2\)](#). As such, this advisory opinion is for informational purposes only and is non-binding. The advisory opinions define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing.

Delegation of Vagal Nerve Stimulation

The procedure of Vagal Nerve Stimulation (VNS) through the use of a magnet is critical to the welfare of select patients with seizure disorders to end or shorten seizure activity. The VNS is most effective when used at the onset of a seizure. In many cases the licensed professional nurse is not immediately available to assess and use the device to interrupt seizure activity. However, unlicensed assistive personnel are immediately available in most instances.

It is the opinion of the Nebraska Board of Nursing the task of swiping the magnet over the VNS device may be delegated by a registered professional nurse to unlicensed assistive personnel. The delegation of this task must be done by an RN in accordance with the [delegation regulations](#), 172 NAC 99-004. The unlicensed assistive personnel should have the appropriate education on the use of the device, patient specific symptoms, and when to use the device provided by a licensed nurse.

A licensed nurse is accountable to be competent for all nursing care that he/she provides pursuant to the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act. The licensed nurse also retains accountability for the application of the nursing process when making the decision to delegate nursing interventions, and for the adequacy of client/patient care and outcomes related to the delegation decision (172 NAC 99-001.01A3). The RN must use nursing knowledge and judgment to delegate in a manner that allows for safe, accountable, and responsible provision of nursing care.

References:

American Association of Neurological Surgeons (2007). *Vagus Nerve Stimulation* retrieved from www.aans.org

Maine State Board of Nursing (2001). *Vagal Nerve Stimulator*. Retrieved from www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/

Massachusetts Board of Nursing. *The Use of a Vagal Nerve Stimulator Magnet*. Massachusetts Advisory Ruling Number 0802. Retrieved from www.mass.gov/eohhs

New York State Board of Nursing (2007). *Vagal Nerve Magnet Stimulators*. Retrieved from www.op.nysed.gov/prof/nurse

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