

Delegation of Care

POLICY

Westmont Community Care must ensure that all community nursing services delivered by an Enrolled Nurse (EN) and/or others are planned, delegated, supervised and documented by a Registered Nurse (RN).

GLOSSARY

Delegation is the relationship that exists when an RN delegates aspects of their nursing practice to another person such as an EN, care worker or student. Delegations are made to meet peoples needs and to enable access to health care services, that is, the right person is available at the right time to provide the right service. The RN who is delegating retains accountability for the decision to delegate. They are also accountable for monitoring of the communication of the delegation to the relevant persons and for the practice outcomes. Both parties share the responsibility for making the delegation decision, which includes assessment of the risks and capabilities. In some instances, delegation may be preceded by teaching and competency assessment.

Enrolled Nurse (EN) is a person who provides nursing care under the direct or indirect supervision of a RN. EN's are accountable for their own practice and remain responsible to a RN for the delegated care.

Registered Nurse (RN) is a person who has completed the prescribed education preparation, demonstrates competence to practices and is registered under the Heath Practitioner Regulation Law as an RN in Australia.

Supervision includes managerial supervision, professional supervision and clinically focused supervision.

PROCEDURES

Westmont Community Care will ensure RN's:

1. Are responsible and accountable for supervision and delegation of nursing activity of EN's and others.
2. Work in partnerships and delegate responsibilities, however, not every RN will delegate clinical practise to EN's or others.
3. Use delegation, supervision, coordination, consultation and referrals in professional relationships to achieve improved outcomes.
4. Accept accountability for decisions, actions, behaviours and responsibilities inherent in their role, and for the actions of others to whom they have delegated responsibility.
5. Appropriately delegate aspects of practice to EN's and others, according to their scope of practice and role.
6. Provide effective, timely direction and supervision to ensure that delegated practice is safe and correct.

Date approved:	April 2020	By Department:	Executive		
To be reviewed:	April 2023	By Department:		Key changes:	