

## **LVNs Working in a Hospital Setting**

### **Summary of Request:**

This report is to provide the Board with information about a Texas Board of Nursing (BON) document that outlines work settings for LVN practice.

### **Historical Perspective:**

During the April 2010 Board meeting, there was discussion about the decrease in utilization of LVNs in hospital settings. The BON has no authority over how hospitals staff their organizations, however there is a BON document that clarifies LVNs may work in structured health care settings such as in hospital settings. See Attachment 1, **Interpretive Guideline for LVN Scope of Practice Under Rule 217.11**, Definition # 2, Healthcare Setting.

The **Interpretive Guideline for LVN Scope of Practice Under Rule 217.11** was developed after the Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE) and Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners (BVNE) merged in 2004. Prior to the boards merger, vocational nursing practice was governed through a title designation and not through an identified scope of practice. In preparation for the merger of the BNE and BVNE, the Nursing Practice Act was amended to define a scope of practice for LVNs - TOC, 301.002 (5) Definitions and 301.353 Supervision of Vocational Nurse. In addition, Rule 217.11 also outlines standards specifically for vocational nursing.

The **Interpretive Guideline** was developed to provide supporting documentation to further clarify LVN scope of practice and differentiate it from RN practice. **The Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELCS)**, which are Board mandated competencies for all graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, are referred to in the document and provide a baseline for every licensee's scope of practice.

Due to initiatives implemented by national organizations that address competencies for safe, quality nursing practice (such as the Institute of Medicine, National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Services, Quality and Safety Education for Nurses, etc) and changes in the nursing practice analysis conducted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the **DELCS** are currently being revised and will be presented to the Board later in 2010. Consequently, the **Interpretive Guideline for LVN Scope of Practice Under Rule 217.11** will also be revised to reflect factors that are critical for safe nursing practice. As in the current document, clarification will be made that LVN practice may occur in hospital settings.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

None. This report is for information only.