

Personal Support Worker: Do's and Don'ts

What a PSW Can Do at Lakeridge Health	What a PSW Can't Do at Lakeridge Health
<p>PSWs can perform personal care and other routine activities of living in accordance with the Regulated Health Professions Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with tray set-up and feeding of patients as directed by a nurse; open packages, ensure comfort, feed when necessary and document intake • Assist with ambulation, toileting, bathing and personal hygiene functions under the direction of a nurse • Provide physical assistance to patients as required by assisting with lifts, mobility transfers, as directed by a nurse • Perform various patient care duties, including answering call bells & related non-professional activities necessary in meeting patients' personal needs and comfort, and documenting as required. • Empty, measure and report <i>established</i> ostomy, urinary catheter drainage bags and suction canisters (intake and output) and dispose of content when directed or requested by nurse • Participate in rounding and ensures items are within reach • Perform and report skin assessment findings to nurse • Perform urine and stool specimen collection and labeling of these specimens • Pain Screening as per Patient Care Standard • Diversion and de-escalation • Perform least restraint interventions • Remove restraints for personal care, under the direction of the nurse • Applies and maintains TEDS per plan of care • Remove and reapply limb splints as per plan care for pressure injury prevention, to clean skin etc. 	<p>PSWs cannot work autonomously and must work under the supervision of a Nurse. The Nurse is responsible and accountable for ongoing assessments of the patient and documentation of all nursing care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot connect or disconnect intravenous lines or infusion lines • Cannot initiate or make adjustments to patient specific equipment, such as infusion pumps, oxygen administration or related equipment, chest tubes and feeding pumps <p>Note: The PSW may remove and reapply the patient's oxygen mask or nasal cannula where the settings have been pre-set by a regulated health care provider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot apply or remove suction, perform suctioning, other than oral with a Yankaur (in routine situations), but may empty suction canister • Cannot perform dressing changes or treatments restricted to nursing (e.g. applying dressing for skin tear) • Cannot assist in any administration of medications, even if crushed in food or applied topically • Cannot perform any controlled acts authorized to regulated health care professionals (e.g. Tracheal suctioning, catheterization, Bladder Scan, etc.) • Cannot perform anal swabs • Cannot empty patient drains (e.g. Chest Tubes, hemovacs) <p>Note: Foley catheter drainage bags may be measured, reported and contents disposed of when directed or requested by the patient's nurse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot initiate or reapply restraints independently • Cannot participate in Code Blue interventions • Cannot monitor and document patient vital signs • Cannot apply coban wrap • Cannot work autonomously and must work under the supervision of a regulated health care provider <p><i>PSWs must alert team members immediately when ANY change or concern about the patient's condition occurs, concerns voiced by the patient and/or the patients family</i></p>
<p>Expectations for nurses who work with PSWs:</p> <p>A nurse who teaches, assigns duties to or supervises PSWs must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the PSW is competent to perform the particular procedure or activity safely for the client in the given circumstances. Have first-hand knowledge of the PSW's competence; Verify that the PSW's competence has been determined. • Ensure that the PSW: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ understands the extent of her or his responsibilities in performing the procedure(s), ○ knows when and who to ask for assistance, and ○ knows when, how and to whom to report the outcome of the procedure, • Ensures that there is an ongoing assessment of the client's health care needs, develop a plan of care, evaluate the client's condition and judges the ongoing effectiveness of the PSW's interventions. <p>Patients that are appropriate for PSW care include those that require the tasks in the "Can Do" list AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient has established, well-defined care needs; condition is well controlled and not expected to change • The patient's response to the procedure/task is predictable • An appropriate nurse is readily available for consultation or intervention. 	