

Personal Support Worker Role Scope of Practice - Expectations and Limitations

The following expectations and limitations outline the scope of practice for the Personal Support Worker (PSW) role within the Interprofessional Patient Care Team at Quinte Health Care (QHC).

PSW Role Expectations

- Responsible and accountable for the provision of patient care to a specific group of patients under the direction of regulated Health Care Professionals (RHP) and in accordance with the policies and procedures of QHC. Such duties include:
 - Assist with tray set-up and feeding of patients as directed by a RHP; opening packages, making patient comfortable, feeding when necessary and documenting food consumption
 - Assist with ambulation, toileting, bathing and personal hygiene functions under the direction of RHP
 - Provide physical assistance to patients as required by assisting with lifts and transfers, as directed by a RHP
 - Monitor and document patient intake and output
 - Performs various patient care duties & related non-professional activities necessary in meeting patient's personal needs and comfort and documenting as required.
 - Perform urine and stool specimen collection and labeling of these specimens
 - Empty, measure, report and document ostomy and Foley catheter drainage bags and dispense of contents when directed or requested by nurse
 - Apply topical creams or ointments for chronic skin conditions as appropriate and in collaboration with the nurse
 - Perform, document and report skin assessments findings to RHPs
 - Apply soft waist restraints, table or lap tray autonomously as appropriate and in consultation with the nurse
- Will assist in the provision of a safe and comfortable environment, including adhering to infection control practices as required
- Must report all concerns voiced by patients and their families to RHPs and program management as appropriate
- Must alert team members immediately when any change or concern about the patient's condition occurs

PSW Scope of Practice Limitations:

- 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. Note: The PSW may reapply the patient's oxygen mask or nasal cannula where the settings have been preset by a regulated health care professional
- Cannot apply, remove or adjust suction apparatus
- Cannot perform dressing changes or treatments restricted to nursing
- Cannot assist in any administration of medications, even if crushed in food
- Cannot perform or document vital signs
- Cannot perform any controlled acts authorized to regulated health care professionals (e.g. tracheal suctioning, catheterization, Bladder Scanner etc.)
- Cannot perform restraint interventions independently, with the exception of lap belts on wheelchairs and lounge chairs. PSWs may remove restraints, under the direction of the RHP. PSWs may assist a nurse in reapplying a restraint
- Cannot empty patient drains (e.g. JP drains, chest tubes, Zassi tubes, hemovacs). Foley catheter drainage bags may be measured, reported and contents disposed of when directed or requested by the patient's nurse