

EXAMPLE OF LOW RISK: DELEGATE TASK



SITUATION

Linda is 46 years old and has been admitted to a day surgery unit to have her gall bladder removed by laparoscopy. She returns to the ward area following an uncomplicated procedure with two small wounds that are covered with surgical dressings. She wishes to get out of bed and walk to the bathroom post procedure, prior to discharge.



ASSESSMENT

Staff Nurse Amy is responsible for Linda's care before and after her procedure. A nursing assessment prior to transfer to theatre had not revealed any nursing needs beyond pre and post-operative care including health education. Linda was fully independent prior to admission. Amy has been monitoring Linda since her return from recovery. All vital signs have been within appropriate ranges, based on Linda's pre-assessment information and baseline measurements on the morning of surgery. Linda's wounds are dry and she has had pain medication administered orally which has relieved her pain, following the prescription on her post-operative medications chart.

Amy considers the decision support framework and realises that the only question she is unsure of is whether or not Delia, a recently appointed Senior Nursing Assistant, is confident to take on the task unsupervised.



DECISION

Amy approaches Delia and explains that Linda needs to be accompanied to the bathroom as this is her first time out of bed post-operatively. Delia discusses with Amy her experience of undertaking similar tasks in her previous place of employment. Delia assures Amy that she understands the need to raise the alarm if Linda feels unwell at any stage and describes what she would do in that event to Amy's satisfaction. Amy delegates the task of accompanying Linda to Delia and records this in Linda's nursing record when she is evaluating the nursing plan of care.