

## EXAMPLE OF LOW RISK: DELEGATE TASK



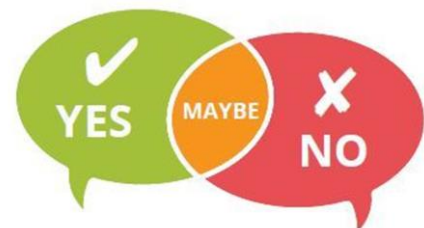
### SITUATION

Jack was born at 35 weeks gestation and is now 18 hours old. He has been assessed by the paediatric doctor whilst on the post-natal ward with his mother as it was reported that Jack was slow to feed and had a weak sucking reflex. Following review the paediatrician decided to transfer Jack to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) to help establish feeding and to monitor his blood sugar levels. On arrival to the SCBU, Jack is assessed and a plan of care is devised in conjunction with Jack's mother and Staff Nurse Kerrie. Jack's fluid requirements for three hourly feeds are calculated and recorded in the plan of care. Jack's mother will offer breastfeeds to help with the encouragement of sucking, and expressed breastmilk will be given via an orogastric tube until exclusive breastfeeding can be established.



### ASSESSMENT

A full nursing and medical assessment did not indicate any further care and treatment needs beyond establishing feeds. Staff Nurse Kerrie is responsible for Jack's care in SCBU as well as two other babies. Kerrie is preparing another baby for discharge when Jack is due his next feed. Working alongside Kerrie is Eileen, a Senior Nursing Assistant (SNA). She has recently transferred to SCBU from another Neonatal Unit in the same organisation and this is her first shift working with Kerrie. Eileen has received specific training in enteral feeding and Kerrie considers the decision support matrix to assess if it is appropriate to delegate the task of delivering Jack's feed to Eileen.



### DECISION

Kerrie discussed with Eileen her knowledge and experience in the delivery of feeds via an orogastric tube. Eileen is able to provide Kerrie with an assurance including written evidence from her previous line manager that she has achieved the necessary competencies and performed this task consistently without direct supervision in her previous place of work. Eileen is confident and able to describe the procedure, outlining the safety steps required. Following their discussion, Kerrie identifies that, using the Decision Support Matrix, all of the indicators for the task are green and as a result decides to delegate the task to Eileen. Jack's mother understands that Eileen will perform the task providing feedback to Kerrie as required and is content with the plan of care. Kerrie records her decision making rationale in Jack's evaluation of care.