

Practice Guideline

Disagreeing With the Plan of Care

Introduction

The College of Nurses of Ontario has developed this practice guideline to provide direction to nurses when they disagree with a plan of care or when they believe a client has not given informed consent to a plan.

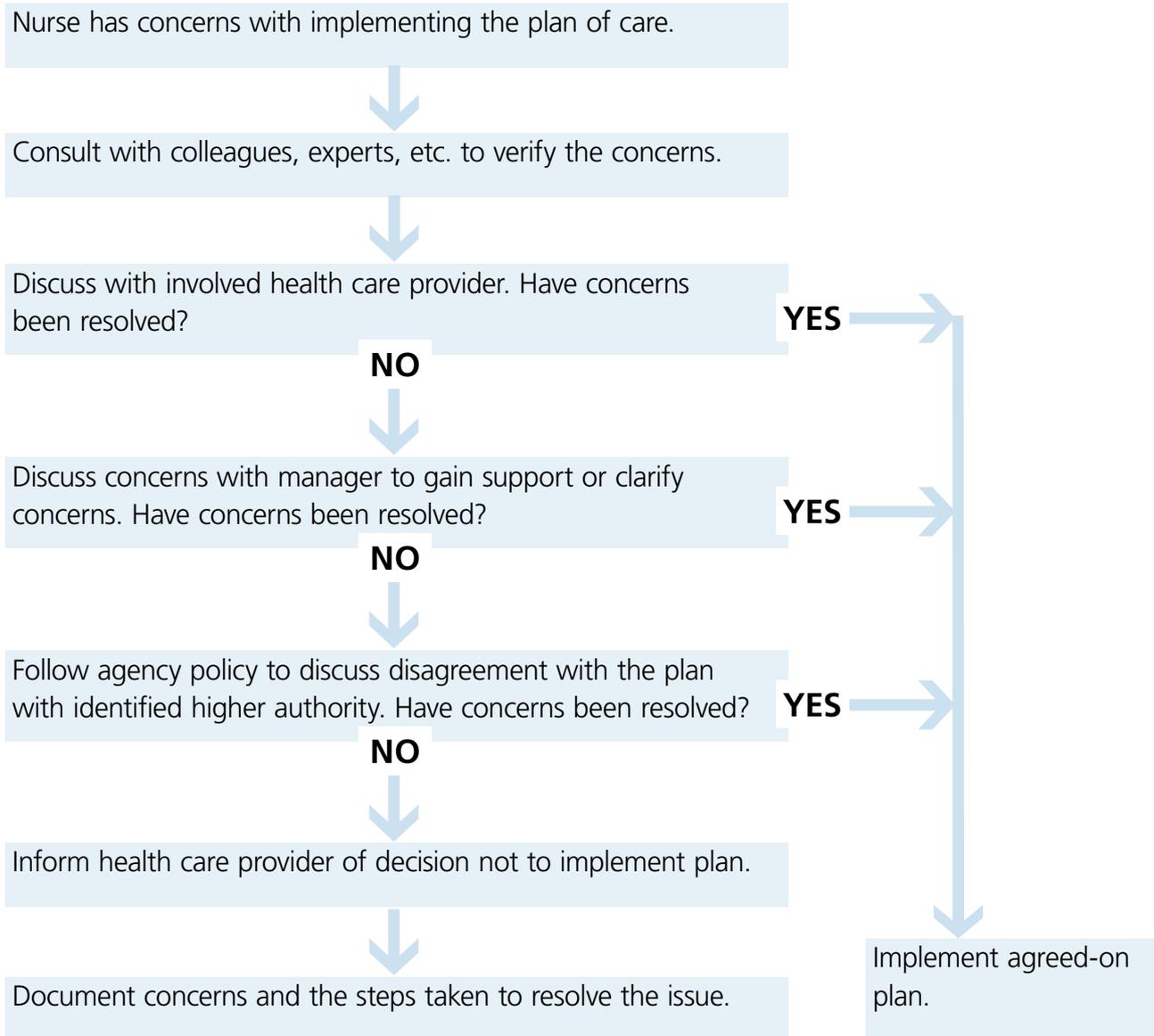
Nurses concerned about implementing a plan of care will:

- assess the situation, consult with the client (as appropriate), nursing colleagues and other experts (for example, other health care professionals) and refer to relevant reference material;
- inform the responsible health care provider of the concern and support the concern;
- discuss the concern with the immediate manager (if the concern remains unresolved);
- contact the responsible health care provider for further discussion (if the immediate nursing manager shares the concern);
- refer to agency policy to identify how to bring the concern to the attention of a higher medical or other authority in the facility (if the health care provider doesn't consider alternatives to the original treatment plan);
- decide whether to report the concern to a higher management authority (if the immediate manager does not share the concern and cannot provide information that will eliminate the concern);
- continue to report to higher authorities in the facility until convinced of the appropriateness of the treatment or until the treatment is changed;
- inform the health care provider of the decision and the action taken to date (if the decision is to refuse to implement the treatment plan); and
- document in the client's record the concern and the steps taken that directly relate to client care. If necessary, refer to agency policy for the appropriate format to document information not directly related to client care.

Maintaining a Quality Practice Setting

Quality practice settings establish policies to address differences in judgment that affect the care of clients. These policies identify the hierarchy of nursing, medical and other authorities. The policies also address the appropriate format for documenting information not directly related to client care.

Decision Tree: Disagreeing With the Plan of Care



For more information

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