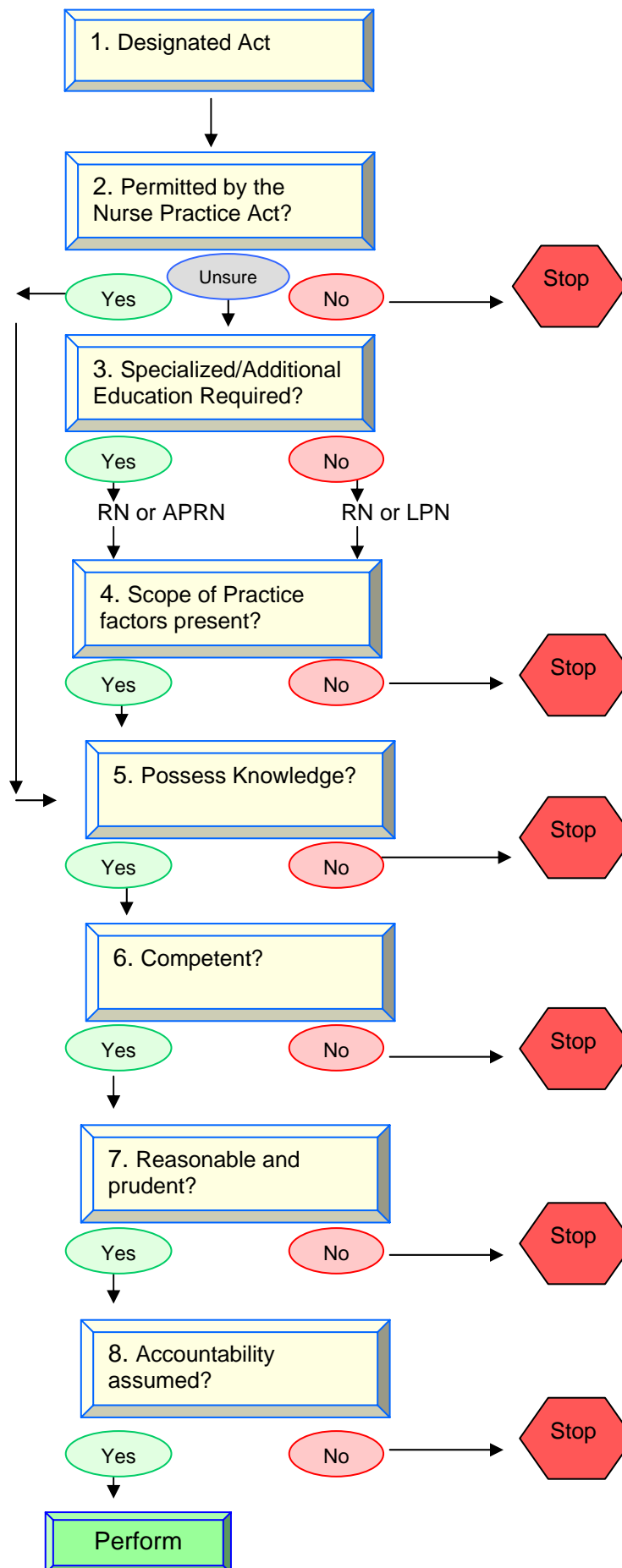


Scope of Practice Decision Tree

- Describe the act being performed.
- Is the act expressly permitted/prohibited by the Nursing Statutes?
This may be all the information you need to make your decision. If not, continue to the next step.
- Does the act require you to have substantial specialized nursing knowledge or skill, does it require educational training beyond basic education for licensure and independent judgement?
If you answer no to this question, the act may be within the scope of practice for an RN or LPN.
If you answer yes, it may be an act within the scope of practice for an RN only or for an advanced practice role.
- Is the act consistent with the scope of practice based on the following factors:
 - Taught in basic nursing education program.
 - Included in national nursing organization's standards of practice.
 - Supported by nursing literature and research.
 - Appropriately established policy and procedure is in place in the employing facility.
 - Addressed by a Nebraska Board of Nursing advisory opinion.

If you answer no to this question, the act is NOT within your scope of practice.
If the answer is yes, continue to the next step.
- Do you personally possess the depth and (cont.)



- (cont.) breadth of knowledge to perform the act safely and effectively?
If you answer no, the act may be within your scope of practice, but you are not knowledgeable to perform it.
If you answer yes, continue on.
- Do you personally possess current clinical competence to perform the act safely?
If you answer no, the act maybe within your current scope of practice but you are not competent to perform the act.
If you answered yes, continue on.
- Is the performance of the act within the accepted "standard of care" which would be provided in similar circumstances by reasonable and prudent nurses who have similar training and experience?
If you answer no, the act should not be performed. Performance of the act may place both nurse and patient at risk.
If you answer yes, continue on.
- Are you prepared to accept the consequences of your action?
If you answer no, the act should not be performed.
If you answer yes, then:
 - Perform the act – based on valid order when necessary, and in accordance with appropriately established policy and procedure.
 - Assume accountability for provision of safe care.