



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 10

FORMULATED: July 31, 1987

REVISED: April 2003, November 1993, November 1989

REVIEWED: March 2011, July 2007, May 2006, July 2005, February 2001,
July 1998, January 1997, November 1991

QUESTION: What is the appropriate policy and procedure for management of resuscitate and do not resuscitate orders ("no code" orders)?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges it is the responsibility of the patient's physician/APRN to initiate any type of resuscitation orders to include do not resuscitate or "no code" orders. In the absence of a written "no code" order, the nurse must initiate CPR or follow related policies and procedures established by the agency.

The Board of Nursing recommends the nursing department develop policies and procedures specific to the nurse's role as related to management of resuscitate and do not resuscitate orders ("no code" orders). In addition, the Board recommends that agencies consult with legal counsel, advance directives documents, accreditation standards (i.e., JCAHO, CHAP), medical staff and the nurse administrator when developing policies and procedures for management of resuscitation orders.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.