



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 11

FORMULATED: July 31, 1987

REVISED: November 1989, May 2003

REVIEWED: March 2011, July 2007, May 2006, July 2005, February 2001, July 1998, January 1997, May 1993

QUESTION: What is the appropriate policy and procedure for the management of physicians' telephone orders received by health care agencies from physicians' office personnel?

The Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that the best interests of all members of the health care team are served by having the physician/APRN/PA write all orders on the patient's medical record. Nevertheless, verbal, telephone, fax and computer orders have become accepted practice within guidelines established by applicable regulations, policies and procedures.

The Board of Nursing acknowledges that under the direction of the prescribing physician, the RN or LPN is the most appropriate person in a physician's office to communicate orders to licensed nursing personnel in the health care agency where the patient is receiving care.

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