



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

**South Carolina Board of Nursing**

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**ADVISORY OPINION # 16**

**Formulated:** July 31, 1987

**Revised:** July 2007, September 2002, March 2001, May 1993, March 1991

**Reviewed:** March 2011, May 2006, July 2005, July 1998, January 1997, May 1992

**Question:** Is it within the role and scope of responsibility of the registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) to inject Xylocaine (without epinephrine) intradermally, prior to the insertion of a peripheral IV line, for the purpose of providing for patient comfort?

The Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of responsibilities of the RN and LPN to inject Xylocaine (without epinephrine) intradermally, prior to the insertion of a peripheral line, for the purpose of providing for patient comfort.

Recognizing these responsibilities are an additional act for the RN and LPN, the Board recommends that the nursing department complete a comprehensive literature review and consult with clinical experts and legal counsel prior to implementation. If implementation is in order, then appropriate policies, procedures, and standing orders should be developed which specify required special education and training. This special education and training should include documented safety practices and other didactic material as well as clinical skill competency components. The agency policies and procedures should address how the agency will assure a physician or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse authorizes the order to administer Xylocaine.

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