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QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities of the registered nurse (RN) to insert the intraosseous infusion device, and administer fluids, blood and blood products and medications to the pediatric patient?

The Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that intraosseous infusion is within the role and scope of responsibilities of the RN with special education and training in situations where peripheral intravenous access is unsuccessful, and an intraosseous line is inserted by a registered nurse with special education and training. This procedure should be in accordance with standards of Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) established by the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Recognizing that this responsibility is considered an additional act of the RN and requires special education and training, the Board recommends that the nursing department of the employing agency complete a comprehensive literature review and consult with clinical experts and legal counsel prior to implementation. Training should include but not be limited to PALS. If the nursing department determines that implementation is in order, then appropriate policies, procedures, and standing orders should be developed which specify qualifications, special education and training to include didactic and clinical competency verification components, and emergent conditions/patient situations wherein the RN is authorized to administer intraosseous therapy.

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