



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 31

FORMULATED: June 1996

REVISED: March 2011, July 2007, May 2003, March 2001, December 1997

REVIEWED: May 2006, July 2005, July 1998, May 1997

QUESTION: May the registered nurse (RN) administer red blood cells and platelets in the home setting?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of practice of the RN to administer red blood cells and platelets in the home setting, providing the environment is supportive to emergency medical care and there is an order, and appropriate written policies and procedures are in place.

This responsibility is an expanded role for the RN. Appropriate policies and procedures 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 written policies and procedures should address how the agency will assure a physician or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) authorizes to administer the red blood cells and platelets in the home setting.

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