



ADVISORY OPINION # 32

- FORMULATED:** January 2001
- REVISED:** September 2002, July 2007
- REVIEWED:** July 2005, May 2006
- QUESTION:** Is it within the role and scope of the licensed practical nurse (LPN) to perform additional acts: as (1) Charge Nurse or (2) in an Intensive Care Unit?

The South Carolina Board of Nursing acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of the LPN to perform additional acts according to specific criteria. Recognizing these responsibilities are an additional act for the 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 written 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 specific special education and training which enables the LPN to demonstrate competent performance of additional acts shall be provided by the employer and shall be available to the Board for review. Listed below are additional acts that may be performed by the selected LPN as designated by the registered nurse (RN), licensed physician, or licensed dentist.

1. Charge Duty

The selected LPN may function as a Charge Nurse in a skilled care facility or intermediate care facility under the supervision of a RN who is available on call.

2. Intensive Care Units

The selected LPN performing additional acts in an intensive care unit shall be under the direct supervision of a RN who is present and in charge of the unit. Written standing orders and/or policies regarding the role of the selected LPN in resuscitation, defibrillation and monitoring shall be developed by the employer.

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