



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

**South Carolina Board of Nursing**

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**ADVISORY OPINION # 46**

**Formulated: September 2003**

**REVISED:**

**REVIEWED: July 2005 July 2007  
May 2006**

**Question: Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities of the licensed practical nurse (LPN) to evaluate and/or stage vascular, diabetic or pressure ulcers?**

**The LPN may collect health care data related to vascular, diabetic and/or pressure ulcer(s) in order to assist with classifying or staging.**

**However, the analysis and synthesis of clinical information and the formulation of problem statements, nursing diagnoses and treatment plans requires the knowledge base and skills that are within the scope of practice of the registered nurse and may not be delegated to the LPN. It is recommended that agencies develop and implement written policies and guidelines requiring assessment and frequent reassessment by the RN.**

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