



## South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

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### ADVISORY OPINION # 7

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**REVISED:** April 2001, July 2007

**REVIEWED:** March 1992  
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**QUESTION:** Is it within the scope of practice of the registered nurse (RN) to administer medications, such as anti-neoplastic agents, intrathecally?

The Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the scope of practice of the RN to administer medications, such as anti-neoplastic agents, intrathecally through established reservoirs.

Recognizing these responsibilities are an additional act for the RN, 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 to administer the anti-neoplastic agents intrathecally. Medications to be administered by the RN and dose ranges are to be listed in the written policies, procedures, and standing orders. The nursing department is advised to obtain patient specific written medical orders which indicate mechanical and physiological parameters to be monitored and reported to the physician.

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