



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 22

FORMULATED: January 29, 1988

REVISED: November 2014, July 2007, September 2001, July 1993

REVIEWED: March 2011, May 2006, July 2005, November 2003, July 1998, May 1997, May 1992

QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of responsibility of the registered nurse (RN) to determine if a patient is in labor, and if the patient is not in labor to discharge the patient home, without consulting an authorized licensed provider?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the scope and practice of the RN to assess and evaluate a patient for labor. However, the RN may NOT make medical diagnoses and therefore it is NOT within the role and scope of responsibility of the RN to discharge patients from the labor and delivery area without an order from the authorized licensed obstetrical care provider.

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