



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

## South Carolina Board of Nursing

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### ADVISORY OPINION #63

**FORMULATED:** July 2014

**QUESTION:** Is it within the role and scope of practice for APRNs to admit patients to the hospital?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina recognizes that the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) scope of practice includes delegated medical acts as defined in the Nurse Practice Act Chapter 33.

According to the Nurse Practice Act Chapter 33:

Section 40-33-20 (5) defines “Advanced Practice Registered Nurse” or “APRN” as a registered nurse who is prepared for an advanced practice registered nursing role by virtue of additional knowledge and skills gained through an advanced formal education program of nursing in a specialty area that is approved by the board. The categories of APRN are nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist, and certified registered nurse anesthetist. An advanced practice registered nurse shall hold a doctorate, a post-nursing master's certificate, or a minimum of a master's degree that includes advanced education composed of didactic and supervised clinical practice in a specific area of advanced practice registered nursing. In addition to those activities considered the practice of registered nursing, an APRN may perform delegated medical acts.

Section 40-33-20(23) "Delegated medical acts" means additional acts delegated by a physician or dentist to the NP, CNM, or CNS and may include formulating a medical diagnosis and initiating, continuing, and modifying therapies, including prescribing drug therapy, under approved written protocols as provided in Section 40-33-34. Delegated medical acts must be agreed to jointly by both the Board of Nursing and the Board of Medical Examiners. Delegated medical acts must be performed under the general supervision of a physician or dentist who must be readily available for consultation.

As part of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse’s practice guidelines and scope of practice, the APRN is recognized as working with a supervising physician who approves and supports protocols for practice developed collaboratively between the APRN and the physician. If the supervising physician has hospital admitting privileges, then the APRN that he/ she supervises may admit patients to the hospital as well if this is included in the protocols. However, it is recognized that it is the decision of the hospital and according to its bylaws as to whether the APRN is granted admitting privileges.

Therefore, the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, recognizes that it is within the scope of practice for the APRN to admit patients to the hospital if the hospital bylaws/ policy grant this privilege.

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