



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

P.O. Box 12367 • Columbia, SC 29211-2367

Phone: 803-896-4550 • Fax: 803-896-4515 • <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/>



ADVISORY OPINION #64

Formulated: March 2015

Question: Is it within the scope of practice for an LPN to irrigate an ear?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of responsibilities for an LPN to irrigate an ear under the following circumstances:

- As assessment of the ear and ear canal have been completed by an RN
- The RN may delegate ear irrigation to the LPN if no abnormal finding(s) contraindicating irrigation has been assessed.
- The LPN must have demonstrated competency in ear irrigation.

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