



ADVISORY OPINION # 9A

FORMULATED: July 31, 1987

REVISED: May 2014, July 2007, November 2002, July 2000, July 1991, March 1991, November 1989

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QUESTION: What is the scope of responsibility of the registered nurse (RN) in the administration of peripheral and central intravenous therapies/procedures?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges it is within the scope of practice of the RN to perform procedures and to administer ordered treatments via central and peripheral venous access devices according to the following stipulations:

1. Established agency policy and procedure are approved and signed by the nursing administrator and applicable medical director. Procedure is to include guidelines for patient monitoring, types of fluids and therapies and standing orders dealing with potential complications or emergency situations.
2. The RN must complete an organized course of study relative to the administration/maintenance of fluids and therapies via central and peripheral venous access devices and lines. The course is to include didactic classroom instruction followed by a period of supervised clinical instruction including return demonstrations.

DEFINITION:

1. Central catheters are catheters whose distal tip is located in the superior vena cava. Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice, (2011).
2. A “flush” is performed to promote and maintain patency and to prevent the mixing of medications/solutions. A “flush” must be defined by written agency policy and procedure. Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice, (2011).
3. A “bolus” is defined as a concentrated medication/solution given rapidly over a short period of time. Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice, (2011).
4. A “push” is the manual administration of medication under pressure. Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice, (2011).

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