

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE SC BOARD OF NURSING AND SC BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

In October of 2010, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies issued a report titled, "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health."

The report included four key messages:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.

Based on the issuance of this report, the S.C. Board of Nursing asked its Advance Practice Committee to review the report and look at what gaps may exist between current practice by advanced practice nurses in South Carolina and the IOM recommendations.

The Advance Practice Committee put together what is commonly called a "white paper" and presented it to the Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing endorsed the "white paper" solely as information from the Advance Practice Committee.

The Board of Nursing's practice act currently provides that all advanced practice nurses must perform their duties with physician supervision. The Board has not and does not plan to seek

changes to its practice act on this matter. Any change in this regard would be at the discretion of the Legislature.

The S.C. Board of Medical Examiners, at a recent meeting, voted to endorse the Nursing Board's current practice act, which requires physician supervision of advanced practice nurses.