

**South Carolina Board of Nursing**  
**October 2004 Insert into the SC Nurse Newsletter**

*The mission of the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina is the protection of public health, safety and welfare by assuring safe and competent practice of nursing.*

**COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS UNDER NEW NURSE PRACTICE ACT**

Below are the competency requirements from the new Nurse Practice Act. The complete Nurse Practice Act is available on the Board's Web site: [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/).

Initial Licensure

Demonstration of competency for initial licensure requires documented evidence of the following

- (1) graduation from an approved nursing education program; AND
- (2) successful completion of the NCLEX appropriate to the area of licensure and appropriate credentials for advanced practice registered nursing licensure, if applicable.

Renewal

Renewal of an active license biennially requires documented evidence of at least one of the following requirements *during the licensure period*:

- (a) completion of 30 contact hours from a Board-recognized continuing education provider; OR
- (b) maintenance of certification or re-certification by a Board-recognized national certifying body; OR
- (c) completion of a Board-recognized academic program of study in nursing or a related field; OR
- (d) verification of competency and the number of hours practiced, as evidenced by employer certification on a Board-approved form.

Reinstatement

Reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of five years or less requires documented evidence of at least one of the following *within the preceding two years*:

- (a) completion of 30 contact hours from a Board-recognized continuing education provider and successful completion of a Board approved course in legal aspects; OR
- (b) maintenance of certification or re-certification by a Board-recognized national certifying body; OR
- (c) completion of a Board-approved academic program of study in nursing or a related field; OR
- (d) verification of competency and the number of hours practiced in another jurisdiction where authorized to practice, as evidenced by employer certification on a Board-approved form; OR
- (e) successful completion of a Board-approved refresher course.

Reinstatement

Reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of more than five years requires documented

evidence of at least one of the following:

- (a) successful completion of a Board-approved refresher course; OR
- (b) successful completion of the NCLEX appropriate to the area of licensure.

Failure to comply with applicable continued competency requirements will result in denial of the application or non-renewal. A licensee shall maintain all compliance documentation for at least four years. The licensee must present this documentation within five business days of request by a Board representative acting in his/her discretion or in accordance with a random audit. Failure to provide satisfactory documentation within the prescribed time will result in the immediate temporary suspension or cancellation of the license pending compliance with all requirements for licensure and until order of the Board.

Please do not send your continued competency documentation to the Board office unless requested to do so by the Board. We recommend that you maintain a file with your competency statements, certifications and/or education information for easy retrieval if you are audited.

### **Revision Of Nursing Education Regulations**

Article 6 of the Board of Nursing regulations titled Nursing Education Programs was not revised or incorporated into the new Nurse Practice Act and remains in effect. These regulations establish the criteria for the initial and continuing approval of registered and practical nursing education programs that lead to licensure and the requirements for that approval. Changes requiring Board approval or Board notification are also described. The Board is beginning the process of revising those regulations. We received many helpful comments and suggestions as we revised the Nurse Practice Act. We are again asking for your input and suggestions. Please send written comments to Martha Bursinger, LLR Board of Nursing, P O Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211.

### **ADVISORY OPINIONS – NEW/REVISED**

The Board of Nursing approved the revised advisory opinion below at its July 2004 meeting. These opinions reflect the Board's position as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.

#### **Advisory Opinion #39**

**Question:** Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities for the registered nurse (RN) trained as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) to use colposcopy for forensic evidence collection?

**Answer:** The Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that colposcopy is within the scope of practice of the RN who has successfully completed all requirements for education and competency described in the most current "Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Standards of Practice," published by the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

The use of colposcopy by the trained RN is for collection and documentation of forensic evidence. Colposcopy in the pediatric patient may be performed by the SANE only if the suspected abuse has occurred within 72 hours of the physical examination. Before performing

colposcopic examinations, the institution will provide written policies and procedures and the physician will provide standing orders or orders specific to the patient and SANE prepared RN.

Successful completion of all SANE didactic and clinical competency will be documented in the institution's records, and a process for annual clinical competency for each SANE RN will be developed prior to adoption of this practice. These SANE RN's will have documented continuing education in these procedures at least annually.

### **S.C. Board of Nursing Board Members**

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### **S.C. BOARD OF NURSING:**

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### **LPN / RN / APRN Licensure**

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Janet Scheper, Program Assistant

Sandra Bryant, Advanced Practice Licensure

Edwina Garrett, Examinations

Pamela Holmes, Data Coordinator

Theresa Richardson, Reinstatements/Changes

Brandi Risher, Endorsements

Kathryn Spires, Verifications/Changes

### **Advanced Practice / Nursing Practice**

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**Administration**

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**Visit Us On Our Web site: [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/)**

The Board of Nursing Web site contains the New Nurse Practice Act, Current Regulations, Advisory Opinions, Licensee Lookup, Disciplinary Actions, and other information.

**Office Location/Hours of Operation**

The S.C. Board of Nursing is located at Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Suite 202, Columbia, SC 29210. Directions to our office can be found on our Web site. Our mailing address is P O Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211-2367. Normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday, except for designated state holidays.

**Designated State Holidays for Remainder of 2004**

Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving & Day After	November 25-26
Christmas Day	December 24 (Observed)
Day After Christmas	December 27 (Observed)

**Board and Committee Meetings for Remainder of 2004**

Oct. 19, 2004	Advisory Committee on Nursing
Oct. 21, 2004	Nursing Practice & Standards Committee
Nov. 5, 2004	Advanced Practice Committee
<i>Nov. 18-19, 2004</i>	<i>Board of Nursing Meeting</i>
Dec. 9, 2004	Nursing Practice & Standards Committee
Dec. 14, 2004	Advisory Committee on Nursing