



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 36

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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?

The State 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 skills 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.

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