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South Carolina Board of Nursing
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ADVISORY OPINION # 11

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QUESTION: What is the appropriate policy and procedure for the management of physicians' telephone orders received by health care agencies from physicians' office personnel?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that under the direction of the prescribing physician, the RN or LPN is the most appropriate person in a physician's office to communicate orders to licensed nursing personnel in the health care agency where the patient is receiving care.

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina also acknowledges that the best interests of all members of the health care team are served by having the physician/APRN/PA write or document all orders in the patient's electronic medical record. Nevertheless, verbal, telephone, and faxed orders still exist and must be handled by established by applicable regulations, policies and procedures.

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