



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

**South Carolina Board of Nursing**

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**ADVISORY OPINION # 14**

**FORMULATED:** July 31, 1987

**REVISED:** July 2001

**REVIEWED:** July 2024, April 2022, October 2019, July 2017, March 2011, July 2007, May 2006, July 2005,  
December 2000, July 1998, January 1997, March 1992

**QUESTION:** Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities of the licensed practical nurse (LPN) to remove skin sutures and/or staples?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of responsibilities of the LPN to remove skin sutures and/or staples as ordered by an authorized licensed provider.

The Board recommends the employer verify competency in the performance of this skill.

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