



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

**South Carolina Board of Nursing**

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**ADVISORY OPINION # 21**

**FORMULATED:** January 29, 1988

**REVISED:** September 2016, September 2013, July 2007, March 2001, September 1999, June 1999, January 1993

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**QUESTION:** Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities of the licensed practical nurse (LPN) to perform physical assessment?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina (Board) has determined that it is **NOT** within the role and scope of practice for the licensed practical nurse (LPN) to perform physical assessments. It is within the role of the LPN to assist with the collection of patient health data to be used for the complete physical assessment. However, the analysis and synthesis of clinical information and the formulation of problem statements and/or nursing diagnoses requires the knowledge base and skills that are within the scope of practice of the registered nurse (RN) and may **NOT** be delegated to the LPN.

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