



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

**South Carolina Board of Nursing**

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**ADVISORY OPINION # 26**

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**Question:** Is it within the scope of practice of the selected licensed practical nurse (LPN) to manage existing arterial access lines/devices?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the scope of practice and is an additional act for selected licensed practical nurse (LPN) to manage arterial access lines/devices. See the applicable Nursing Management of Invasive Devices Chart-Cardiovascular LPN (<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/PO/Nursing/pdf/Charts/CardiovascularLPN.pdf>) for specific approved responsibilities. These practices are acceptable if the following stipulations are met.

1. Agencies establish written policies and procedures to include guidelines for patient monitoring, standing orders for potential complications and emergency situations and immediate availability of the registered nurse for supervision.
2. The LPN has completed an organized course of study relative to arterial access and management. The course must include didactic instruction and supervised clinical instruction with verification of skill competency. Verification of competency needs to be ongoing with periodic competency checks.

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