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**ADVISORY OPINION # 27**

**FORMULATED:** September 1992

**REVISED:** July 2018, December 2002, July 2007

**REVIEWED:** April 2021, May 1997, December 2000, May 2006  
July 1998, July 2005

**QUESTION:** Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities of the registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) to perform sharps debridement of necrotic tissue as ordered by the physician or APRN?

The State Board of South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of responsibility of the selected RN to perform sharps debridement as ordered by the physician or APRN. It is NOT within the role and scope of the LPN to perform sharps debridement.

Recognizing this responsibility is considered an additional act for the RN, the Board recommends the following stipulations:

1. The agency nursing, medical, and administrative departments establish written policies, procedures and/or standing orders addressing:
  - Licensed Provider documentation of evaluation and supporting orders
  - Licensed Provider is readily available to provide assistance and direction during the performance of the service
  - Guidelines for dealing with potential complications.
2. The agency documents nurse's successful completion of an organized course of study relative to wound assessment and debridement **techniques**. The course must include didactic classroom instruction followed by a period of supervised clinical instructions including return demonstration and competency evaluation.

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