



110 Centerview Drive
Post Office Box 12367
Columbia, SC 29211-2367
Phone: (803) 896-4550
FAX: (803) 896-4515

South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Nursing



Henry D. McMaster
Governor

Emily H. Farr
Director

ADVISORY OPINION # 37

FORMULATED: May 2001

REVISED: 2016, September 2013, March 2011, July 2007, July 2003

REVIEWED: July 2024, October 2021, July 2018, May 2006, July 2005

QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of practice for the registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) to remove, reposition or reinsert tracheostomy tubes in children and adults with well-established stomas in the home, school or other community setting?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of practice of a RN and LPN to temporarily remove, reposition or reinsert tracheostomy tubes in children and adults with well-established stomas in the home, or school or other community setting providing the environment is supportive to emergency medical care (e.g. 911). This responsibility is an expanded role for the RN and LPN.

The Board recommends that home care agencies, schools, and other community settings have in place written policies and procedures that address how the following will be assured:

- Education, training and clinical skills competency evaluations of RNs/LPNs who will remove, reposition or reinsert tracheostomy tubes in children and adults in the home, school or other community setting,
- Orders from a physician or another authorized licensed provider are on file to allow removal, repositioning or reinsertion of tracheostomy tubes, and
- The home, school or community setting is supportive to emergency medical care (e.g. 911).

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