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South Carolina
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Board of Nursing



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ADVISORY OPINION # 37

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

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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.