



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
**South Carolina Board of Nursing**  
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**ADVISORY OPINION # 45**

**FORMULATED:** July 2003

**REVISED:** September 2016, September 2013

**REVIEWED:** July 2021, July 2018, March 2011, July 2007, May 2006, July 2005

**QUESTION:** Is it within the role and scope of practice for a licensed nurse to obtain a pap smear and/ or to perform a bimanual exam?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina has determined that it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse (RN) to obtain a pap smear as ordered by the authorized licensed provider or standing order when that RN is obtaining the specimen for cervical cancer screening. The RN must have specialized education and training to include annual skill competency verification.

The bimanual portion of the comprehensive examination may be performed ONLY by the RN employed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The RN must have completed a formal course of special education and training to include annual skill competency verification.

It is not within the role and scope of practice for a licensed practical nurse (LPN) to obtain a pap smear and/ or to perform a bimanual exam.

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