



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 6

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QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of the licensed nurse to perform procedures related to gastrostomy and jejunostomy tubes in the patient with a permanent gastrostomy or jejunostomy?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges the following role and scope of responsibility for the licensed nurse regarding the care of the patient with a permanent gastrostomy or jejunostomy tube. See also the applicable Nursing Management of Invasive Devices chart. (http://www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/pdf/Charts/LPN_Invasive_Devices.pdf)

The activities of the licensed nurse must be ordered by the authorized licensed provider. The Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) must be under the supervision of the Registered Nurse who is on site or available on call.

1. It is not within the scope of practice for the RN/LPN to reinsert a jejunostomy tube.
2. Unless the gastrostomy tube is sutured in place, the licensed nurse may:
 Replace, reposition and remove the gastrostomy tube for the purpose of managing the tube through a well- established stoma (3-4 weeks old).
3. Initiate infusions, regulate flow and maintain infusions via gastrostomy and jejunostomy tubes.
4. Verify solutions for gastrostomy and jejunostomy feedings.
5. Monitor the gastrostomy and jejunostomy tube insertion site and perform dressing changes and stoma care.
6. Maintain patency of gastrostomy and jejunostomy tubes; and,
7. Collect specimens from gastrostomy and jejunostomy tubes.

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